



RUSSIA DENIES ANY MILITARY VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED

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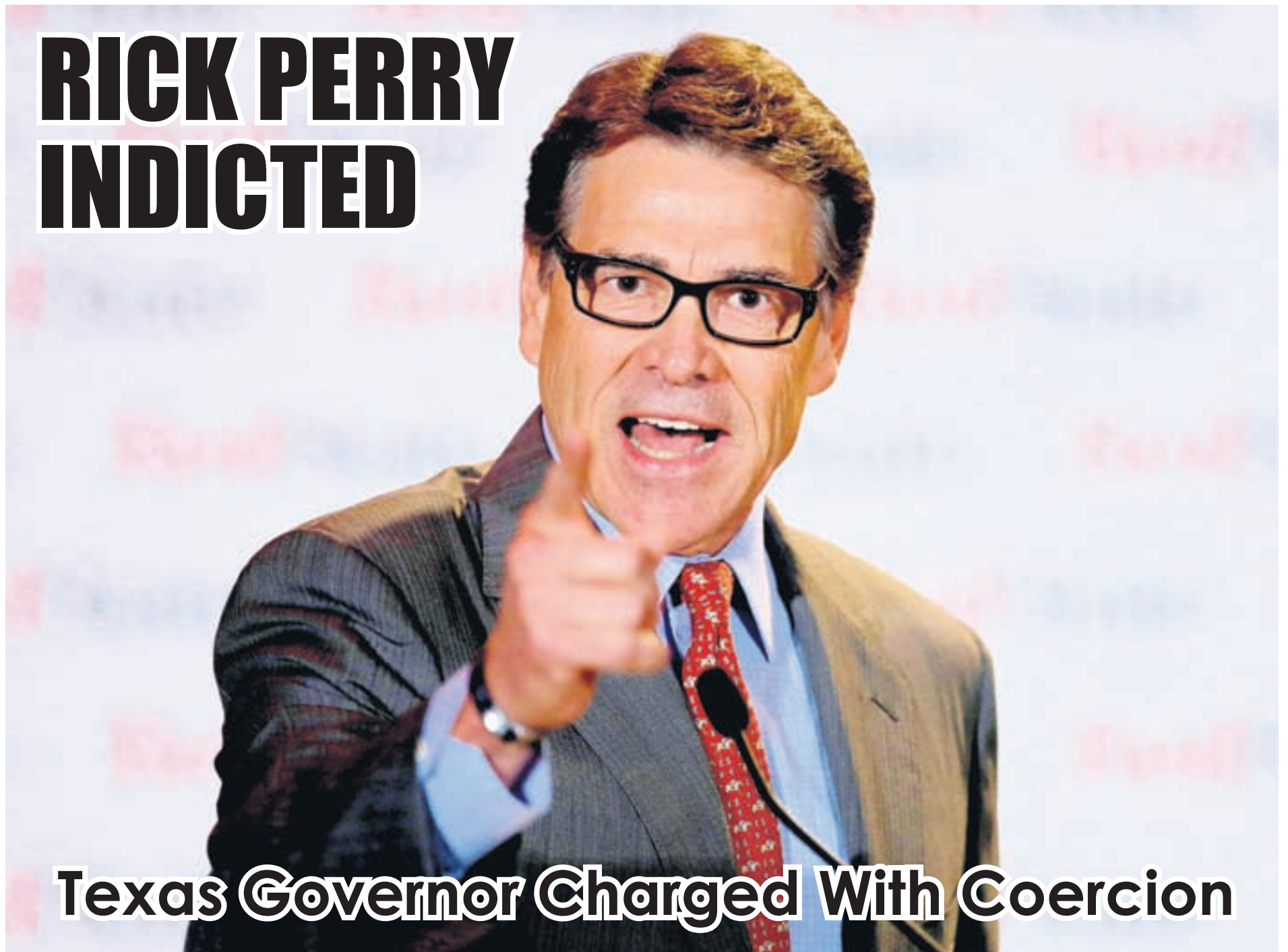
EBOLA MAY LEAVE 1 MILLION IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE

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Aruba TODAY

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RICK PERRY INDICTED



Texas Governor Charged With Coercion

Governor Rick Perry speaks at the 2014 Red State Gathering, in Fort Worth, Texas. Perry has been indicted for abuse of power after carrying out a threat to veto funding for state public corruption prosecutors. The Republican governor is accused of abusing his official powers by publicly promising to veto \$7.5 million for the state public integrity unit at the Travis County District Attorney's office. He was indicted by an Austin grand jury Friday, Aug. 15.

(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

**PAUL J. WEBER
WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A grand jury indicted Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Friday for allegedly abusing the powers of his office by carrying out a threat to veto fund-

ing for state prosecutors investigating public corruption — making the possible 2016 presidential hopeful his state's first indicted governor in nearly a century. A special prosecutor spent months calling witnesses and presenting evidence

that Perry broke the law when he promised publicly to nix \$7.5 million over two years for the public integrity unit, which is run by Travis County Democratic District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg's office. Lehmberg was convicted of drunken

driving, but refused Perry's calls to resign. Perry's general counsel, Mary Anne Wiley, defended the governor's action. "The veto in question was made in accordance with the veto authority afforded to every governor under

the Texas Constitution," she said. "We will continue to aggressively defend the governor's lawful and constitutional action, and believe we will ultimately prevail."

Continued on page 4

Russia:

No vehicles destroyed in Ukraine

A. ROSLYAKOV

JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

KAMENSK-SHAKHTINSKY, Russia (AP) — NATO on Friday said a Russian military column ventured overnight into Ukraine, and the Ukrainian president said his forces destroyed most of it. Russia denied all of this, but the reports spooked global markets and overshadowed

voy could be aimed, in part, at portraying Russia as interested in cooling the conflict. Russian President Vladimir Putin appeared to cultivate that perception in a Thursday speech in which he said Russia hopes for peace in Ukraine. It was not clear what Russia could hope to gain by sending in a military column while world attention

Russian incursion.

In Washington, National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said the U.S. government is working to gather more information about the reports. She said the U.S. remains concerned about repeated Russian and Russian-supported incursions into Ukraine. Markets sold off heavily Friday



Pro-Russian rebels hold their positions on the frontline near the village of Krasnodon, eastern Ukraine, Friday, Aug. 15, 2014. Russia let Ukrainian officials inspect an aid convoy while it was still on Russian soil Friday and agreed that the Red Cross can distribute the goods in Ukraine's rebel-held city of Luhansk.

(AP Photo/Sergei Grits)

owed optimism driven by agreement over a Russian aid convoy bound for eastern Ukraine.

The White House said it was looking into what it called unconfirmed reports that Ukraine's security forces disabled vehicles in a Russian military convoy inside Ukraine.

The Russian aid convoy of more than 250 trucks has been a source of tensions since it set off from Moscow on Tuesday. Kiev and the West were suspicious that the mission could be a pretext for a Russian military incursion into eastern Ukraine, where government forces are battling pro-Russia separatists and clawing back rebel-held territory.

Throughout the eastern crisis that erupted in April, there have been consistent allegations that Russia is fomenting or directing the rebellion. Moscow rejects the allegations and the high-profile aid con-

voys was trained on its efforts to get the aid convoy into eastern Ukraine.

But some foreign journalists reported that Russian armored personnel carriers were seen crossing into Ukraine on Thursday night. On Friday, a statement on Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's website said "the given information was trustworthy and confirmed because the majority of the vehicles were destroyed by Ukrainian artillery at night."

NATO secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen also confirmed that Russian military vehicles had entered Ukraine, but he gave no specifics.

In Moscow, a spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry insisted that no Russian military vehicles were destroyed because none had crossed into Ukraine. Yet Britain said it summoned Russian Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko in to clarify reports of the

day, spooked by thought of Ukrainian troops engaging with Russia forces inside Ukraine. Germany's DAX, which had been trading over 1 percent higher, ended the day 1.4 percent lower.

The crossing reportedly took place near the southern Russian town where the aid trucks have been parked, awaiting permission to go into Ukraine.

After days of controversy, Russia nominally consented to let Ukrainian officials inspect the convoy while it was still on Russian soil and agreed that the Red Cross would distribute the goods in Ukraine's region of Luhansk.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu "guaranteed" Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Friday that no Russian troops are involved in the transport of humanitarian relief supplies to eastern Ukraine. □

AROUND THE WORLD

127 victims identified in MH17 crash

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch authorities say they have identified 127 victims from the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 disaster in Ukraine. Flight 17 was shot down in eastern Ukraine last month, killing all 298 aboard. With fighting between pro-Russia separatist rebels and Ukrainian forces ongoing near the crash site, victims' remains were gathered and sent to the Netherlands for identification. The Justice Ministry said Thursday the identified victims' families have been notified. One of the Netherlands' top prosecutors has said he hopes those responsible for downing the plane will one day face trial in the Netherlands. In remarks confirmed by his office, chief prosecutor Fred Westerbeke said he expects the case will take years to build. □

Woman busted with coke in implants

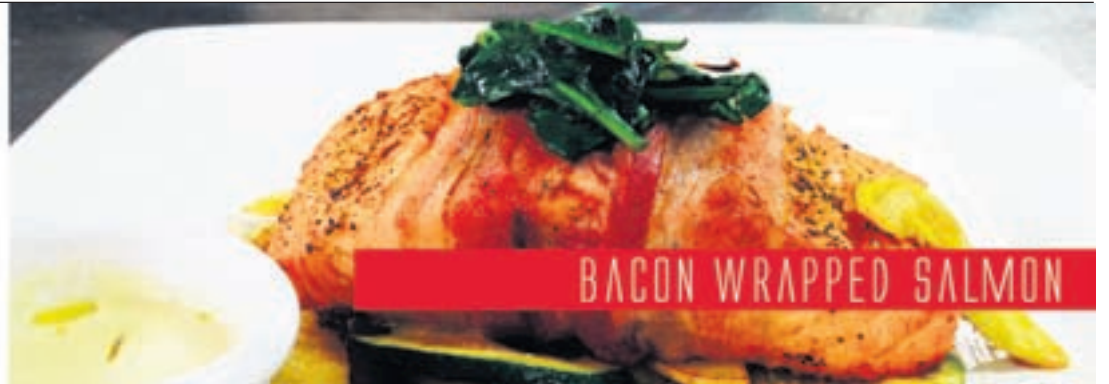
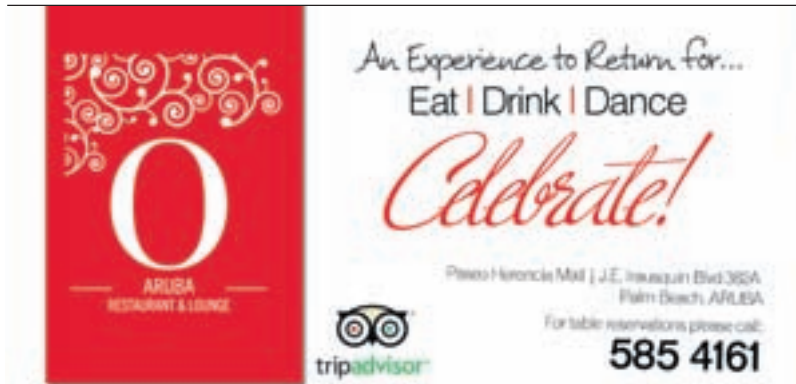
MADRID (AP) — Spanish police say they have arrested a woman who landed at Madrid's international airport with 1.7 kilos (3.7 pounds) of cocaine hidden in her breast implants. Narcotics agents grew suspicious when the 43-year-old Venezuelan woman exhibited unspecified strange behavior during a routine screening of passengers who had just arrived from Bogota, Colombia. A luggage search showed nothing unusual. But a frisk by female officers revealed irregularities and deformations in both of the suspect's breasts. The passenger then "became nervous and confessed to carrying cocaine implants," a police statement said Friday. The suspected drug smuggler was transferred to a hospital where she was detained for an alleged crime against public health, the statement says. □

France marks when Allies freed south

TOULON, France (AP) — France paid tribute Friday to Allied troops — including veterans from the U.S. and French colonies in Africa — who landed 70 years ago on Mediterranean shores to liberate French land from Nazi occupation. The so-called southern landings, involving some 450,000 troops and 881 warships, were launched 10 weeks after the D-Day invasion of Normandy. The two operations squeezed the Nazi occupiers in a pincer and hastening the German defeat and the end of World War II. After major celebrations June 6 to mark the 70th anniversary of D-Day in the presence of world leaders including President Barack Obama, this time French authorities were paying special homage to the tens of thousands African troops recruited by colonizers to fight the Nazis. □

Indian PM Modi urges an end to rape

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday that India had been shamed by rapes and attacks against women, and called on parents in this deeply misogynistic country to treat their sons and daughters equally in his first speech marking the country's independence from colonial rule. "The law will do its job and do it strictly but as a society every parent also has a responsibility to teach their sons the difference between right and wrong," Modi said as he addressed the nation from the Red Fort, the sprawling 17th century fortress that was once home to India's medieval Mughal rulers. "Today when we hear news reports of rapes, our heads hang in shame," Modi said, addressing a growing anger against persistent violence against women. □



Missouri:

Police allege teen robbed store; officer identified

DAVID A. LIEB

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Associated Press

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP)

— Police on Friday identified the officer who fatally shot an unarmed black teenager in a St. Louis suburb and released documents alleging the young man had been suspected of stealing a \$48.99 box of cigars from a convenience store in a “strong-arm” robbery shortly before he was killed.

Police Chief Thomas Jackson said the officer did not know the teen was a robbery suspect at the time of the shooting and stopped Michael Brown and a companion “because they were walking down the middle of the street blocking traffic.”

Darren Wilson, 28, has been an officer in suburban St. Louis for six years and had no complaints filed against him, Jackson said.

Brown’s death ignited four days of clashes with furious protesters. The tension eased Thursday after the governor turned oversight of the protests over to the Missouri Highway Patrol. Within hours, the mood on the street lightened, with state troopers walking side-by-side with peaceful protesters and no hint of violence. Gone were the police in riot gear and armored vehicles, pointing assault rifles at protesters and firing tear gas into crowds.

Brown’s relatives immediately questioned whether the officer really believed Brown was a suspect and said no robbery would justify shooting the teen after he put his hands up.

The family’s attorney, Benjamin Crump, said Brown’s parents were blindsided by

the allegations.

“It’s bad enough they assassinated him, and now they’re trying to assassinate his character,” Crump said.

An attorney for the teen who was with Brown on the day of the shooting said his client has acknowledged to investigators that Brown took cigars from the store. Wilson has been on administrative leave since the Aug. 9 shooting.

Jackson described Wilson as “a gentle, quiet man” who had been “an excellent officer.” He’s been on the Ferguson force for four years. Prior to that, he patrolled in the neighboring community of Jennings, Jackson said.

At 11:51 a.m. on the day of the shooting, police records show, authorities received a call reporting a robbery at the Ferguson Market. An unidentified officer was dispatched to the store, arriving within three minutes. The officer interviewed an employee and customer, who gave a description of a man who stole the cigars and walked off with another



Rev. Jessie Jackson walks with protesters down the street Friday, Aug. 15, 2014, where Michael Brown was killed by police nearly a week ago in Ferguson, Mo. A suburban St. Louis police chief on Friday identified the officer whose fatal shooting ignited days of heated protests, and released documents alleging the teen was killed after a robbery in which he was suspected of stealing a box of cigars.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

man toward another store. Descriptions of the suspect were broadcast over the police radio. The officer did not find the suspects either on the street or at the other store, the reports said. The robber took a box of

Swisher Sweets Cigars valued at \$48.99, according to the reports. The suspects were identified as 18-year-old Michael Brown and 22-year-old Dorian Johnson.

Separately, Wilson had

been responding to a nearby call involving a sick 2-month child from 11:48 am until noon, when he left that place. A minute later, he encountered Michael Brown walking down a street. □

Critics: Police equipped like armies going too far

MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— The police department at the center of an uproar over the shooting death of an unarmed black teenager acquired two armored Humvees and other U.S. military gear for free through a Pentagon program that critics blame for “militarizing America’s Main Streets” and aggravating clashes between police and protesters. The Ferguson Police

Department in Missouri received the two Humvees as well as a generator and a flatbed trailer under the surplus equipment program run by the Defense Logistics Agency, which is in charge of getting supplies of all types for the military. News footage and photos of police outfitted in paramilitary gear clashing with protesters in Ferguson — a largely black suburb of St. Louis with a mostly white police force — have pro-

vided new impetus to efforts to rein in the Pentagon program. It provides assault weapons and other surplus military equipment to local law enforcement agencies across the country.

Sen. Carl Levin, a Democrat and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said his committee will review the program to determine if the Defense Department surplus is being used as intended.

The program began in 1990

as a way to help states and local agencies fight drug-related crime. It was expanded in the mid-1990s.

“Congress established this program out of real concern that local law enforcement agencies were literally outgunned by drug criminals,” Levin said in a statement Friday. “We intended this equipment to keep police officers and their communities safe from heavily armed drug gangs and terrorist incidents.” □



Texas Governor Perry charged with coercion

Continued from Front

Several top aides to the Republican governor appeared before grand jurors in Austin, including his deputy chief of staff, legislative director and general counsel. Perry himself did not testify, though. Grand jurors indicted Perry on abuse of official capacity, a first-degree felony with potential punishments of five to 99 years in prison, and coercion of a public servant, a third-degree felony that carries a punishment of two to 10 years. A spokesman for the governor didn't immediately return messages seeking comment. No one disputes that Perry

is allowed to veto measures approved by the Legislature, including part or all of the state budget. But the left-leaning Texans for Public Justice government watchdog group filed an ethics complaint accusing the governor of coercion because he threatened to use his veto before actually doing so in an attempt to pressure Lehmborg to quit. "I took into account the fact that we're talking about a governor of a state — and a governor of the state of Texas, which we all love," said Michael McCrum, the San Antonio-based special prosecutor. "Obviously that carries a lot of importance. But when it gets down to it, the law is the law."



Texas Gov. Rick Perry delivers a speech to nearly 300 in attendance at the 2014 RedState Gathering, in Fort Worth, Texas. Perry was indicted on Friday, Aug. 15, 2014, for abuse of power after carrying out a threat to veto funding for state public corruption prosecutors.

(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

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In office since 2000 and already the longest-serving governor in Texas history, Perry isn't seeking re-election in November. But the criminal investigation could mar his political prospects as he mulls another run at the White House, after his 2012 presidential bid flamed out. McCrum said he'll meet with Perry's attorney Monday to discuss when he will come to the courthouse to be arraigned. McCrum said he doesn't know when Perry will be booked. Asked why McCrum never spoke to Perry personally, McCrum said, "That's prosecutorial discretion that I had." Lehmborg oversees the office's public integrity unit, which investigates statewide allegations of corruption and political wrongdoing. Perry said he wouldn't allow Texas to fund the unit while Lehmborg remained in charge.

Perry said Lehmborg, who is based in Austin, should resign after she was arrested and pleaded guilty to drunken driving in April 2013. A video recording made at the jail showed Lehmborg shouting at staffers to call the sheriff, kicking the door of her cell and sticking her tongue out. Lehmborg faced pressure from other high-profile Republicans in addition to Perry to give up her post. Her blood-alcohol level was nearly three times the legal limit for driving. The jail video led to an investigation of Lehmborg by a separate grand jury, which decided she should not be removed for official misconduct. The indictment is the first of its kind since 1917, when James "Pa" Ferguson was indicted on charges stemming from his veto of state funding to the University of Texas in an effort to unseat faculty and staff members he objected to. □

Supervalu becomes latest to suffer data breach



Customers exit a Shop 'n Save grocery store in Mount Lebanon, Pa. Supervalu said Friday, Aug. 15, 2014, that a potential data breach may have impacted about 200 of its stores and reached stores it sold off last year. The announcement is just the latest disclosure by a business that its systems have been intruded, with P.F. Chang's, Target and others among those recently revealing breaches. Within the grocery sector, chains such as Yoke's Fresh Market and Super 1 Foods were hit by a data breach between September and November 2013.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A data breach at Supervalu may have impacted as many as 200 of its grocery and liquor stores and potentially af-

fected retail chains recently sold by the company in two dozen states. The announcement lengthens the list of retailers that have had security walls breached in recent months, including

Target, P.F. Chang's and even the thrift store operations of Goodwill Industries International Inc. Hackers accessed a network that processes Supervalu transactions, with account num-

bers, expiration dates, card holder names and other information possibly stolen, the company said. Those systems are still being used by the stores sold off by Supervalu last year for \$3.3 billion, potentially opening up customer data at those stores as well.

The breach occurred between June 22 and July 17, according to Supervalu, which said it took immediate steps to secure that portion of its network.

The cards from which data may have been stolen were used at 180 Supervalu stores and liquor stores run under the Cub Foods, Farm Fresh, Hornbacher's, Shop 'n Save and Shoppers Food & Pharmacy names. Data may also have been stolen from 29 franchised Cub Foods stores and liquor stores. Those stores in North Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Missouri. But Supervalu said that a related criminal intrusion occurred at the chain stores it sold to Cerebus Capital Management LP in March 2013, stores that Su-

pervalu continues to supply with information technology services.

Those stores include Albertsons, Acme, Jewel-Osco, Shaw's and Star Market — and related Osco and Sav-on in-store pharmacies in two dozen states.

Cerebus affiliate AB Acquisition said that it's working closely with Supervalu to evaluate the scope of the potential breach.

Supervalu has yet to determine if any cardholder data was actually stolen and said Friday that there's no evidence of any customer data being misused. Information about the breach was released out of "an abundance of caution," the company said.

The company believes that the intrusion has been contained and it said it is confident that people can safely use credit and debit cards at its stores.

Supervalu and AB Acquisition are offering customers whose cards may have been affected a year of consumer identity protection services via AllClear ID. □

US: Puppy imports must be healthy

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Foreign dog breeders have gone unregulated for years, shipping puppies so young and so sick that one in four died before reaching a U.S. airport, animal welfare workers say.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved a regulation Friday that, starting in 90 days, will require all puppies imported to the United States to be at least six months old, healthy and up-to-date on vaccinations.

Census Bureau data show about 8,400 puppies a year were imported between 2009 and 2013. Because there were no regulations, however, the Humane Society of the United States believes the numbers were much higher, said Melanie Kahn, the society's director of puppy mill campaigns. Many of the puppies came from mills in China and Eastern Europe, said Debo-

rah Press of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

This is the second major USDA effort regarding puppy mills in the last 12 months. In September, the agency enacted what is called the "retail rule":

Breeders having four or more female breeding dogs have to be licensed if they are selling to consumers sight unseen on websites, in flea markets or in classifieds.

Both the Humane Society and ASPCA said they routinely get calls from people who unwittingly bought a puppy mill dog from a foreign or U.S. breeder, only to have it die because its illness was too severe to overcome.

It has been hard to track the number of puppies that are imported, Kahn said, but "we have seen an increase just in the past few months based on calls from consumers who bought teacup puppies from Ko-

rea."

Importers have been sending puppies that are less than eight weeks old to the U.S. in airlines' cargo holds, Kahn said.

"Imagine a six-week-old puppy from Asia to the United States. We are talking about baby animals," she said. "They are delicate as it is.

They could be shipping 100 dogs in the cargo hold. You only need one dog to have an illness, and all of them could have it by the time the plane lands."

Under the new regulation, violators can be fined up to \$10,000.

The ban eliminates the easy access to market that foreign breeders have had for years, said Cori Menkin, senior director of the ASPCA puppy mills campaign. But the fight isn't over, Kahn said: "We are not planning to fight any less than we already do. This means we are taking steps in the right direction." □



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American Living:

Bitcoin more pop than potential for merchants

SIDNEY EMBER

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Jason Hand had more money in his bitcoin wallet than in his savings account. So when he wanted a white linen suit for a vacation trip to Panama, he turned to Overstock.com, a discount retailer that accepted the virtual currency. The suit he selected cost about \$100 - or a little more than a tenth of a bitcoin.

"Bitcoin is essentially just online cash," he said. "You should be able to pay for things however you want to pay for them."

Merchants that accept bitcoins are trying to attract virtual currency enthusiasts like Hand, 37, of Boulder, Colorado. And the number of merchants has been growing.

Since January, major retailers like Overstock, the online travel booking website Expedia, the computer-maker Dell and the satellite television provider Dish Network have started allowing customers to pay using the virtual currency on their websites. Bitcoin supporters view the more widespread adoption of bitcoins by popular companies as an important step toward pushing the currency into the mainstream.

Yet even as more retailers are beginning to embrace digital money, the number of consumers using bitcoins to make purchases has remained small. There are benefits for merchants in offering bitcoin as a payment option - lower processing fees rank high on the list - but some have questioned whether accepting virtual currency amounts to anything more than a marketing gimmick.

"From the store's viewpoint, I think it's great publicity," said Steven Englander, a research analyst with Citigroup. "It makes you edgy."

One reason bitcoin transactions have not yet taken off, experts say, is that the virtual currency does not provide obvious benefits for customers.

In many ways, it is still easier to pay with a credit card

or a PayPal account than with bitcoin, especially at retailers like coffee shops or grocery stores.

Transacting in bitcoins is also riskier because consumers are not protected against virtual currency fraud, making it a less appealing option for those

ment channel. Processing fees for bitcoin transactions are often much lower for retailers. When customers use a credit card or debit card, these fees can be around 3 percent.

By contrast, Coinbase, a third-party payment processor that has teamed up

better."

It is difficult to put an exact figure on the number of merchants that accept bitcoins, but experts say the total globally is as many as 80,000. Big-name retailers like Expedia and Overstock get more attention, but most of these companies are mom and pop stores.

Some say the interest among smaller businesses points to a mounting frustration with processing fees and chargebacks, which can hurt the bottom lines of local shops.

"These are the businesses that are hit hardest by credit card fees," said Adam White, the director of business development and strategy at Coinbase. "For them, bitcoin isn't a 'nice to have,' it's the only option for them to survive." Accepting bitcoins may also be a marketing tactic. When retailers started accepting bitcoins, a big appeal was the virtual currency's ability to attract new customers with its novelty. Being among the first to embrace bitcoin was an easy, relatively cheap way for companies to capitalize on interest in digital money, said Derek D. Rucker, a marketing professor at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

"They're not just manufacturing curiosity and interest, they're borrowing interest," he said about these retailers. "It's possible they're using their association with bitcoin for different reasons, but clearly, it's an attention-grabber."

Merchants like Overstock and Dell said they experienced an initial bump in activity on their sites after announcing they would accept bitcoins, especially after they received media attention.

Now, however, some see signs that there may be a bit of bitcoin fatigue. Sales at Overstock, for example, have fallen considerably since its first week of bitcoin transactions, when it had about \$500,000 worth, said Byrne, Overstock's chief executive. □



Jason Hand, who bought the linen suit he is wearing from the Overstock.com website with Bitcoin, in Boulder, Colo., Aug. 13, 2014. More retailers are beginning to embrace digital money, but some have questioned whether it amounts to anything more than a marketing gimmick.

(Matthew Staver/The New York Times)

mindful of the collapse of Mt. Gox, a bitcoin trading platform that was based in Japan.

"My sense is that a few consumers try to use it as much as they can, but most consumers don't find it nearly as convenient as using a credit card," Englander said about the currency. "You transact in bitcoin because you love it, not because it gives you any major advantages."

For merchants, however, there is significant upside. It costs companies little to accept bitcoins beyond first establishing a new pay-

with many of these big retailers to accept bitcoins, charges a 1 percent processing fee after the first \$1 million in sales.

The chief executive of Overstock, Patrick Byrne, estimated that it cost about \$100,000 to integrate bitcoin into the site's payment system, pennies compared with the millions of dollars it spends on advertising, for example.

Michael Gulmann, the vice president of global product at Expedia, said: "We have costs associated with running our business. The lower we can get those costs, the

U.S. factory output surges through July

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factory output rose for the sixth consecutive month in July, led by a jump in the production of motor vehicles, furniture, textiles and metals.

Manufacturing production rose 1 percent in July compared with the prior month, the Federal Reserve reported Friday.

Factory output in June was revised slightly higher to a 0.3 percent increase. Over the past 12 months, manufacturing has risen 4.9 percent.

Demand for autos surged 10.1 percent last month, the largest increase since July 2009. The broader increase in manufacturing points to stronger growth across the economy, suggesting that manufacturers expect the pace of business investment and consumer spending to improve in the coming months.

"Manufacturing will continue to add to the recovery throughout 2014 and into 2015," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services.

Overall industrial production, which includes manufacturing, mining and utilities, rose 0.4 percent in July, dragged down by a 3.4 percent drop in production at utilities.

Several other reports suggest that factory production improved this summer. Manufacturers added 28,000 workers last month, according to the government's jobs report. That builds on the 23,000 employees that factories added in June, a sign that companies expect demand to continue its upward swing. Separately, the Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, reported that its manufacturing index climbed to 57.1 in July. That's the highest level since April 2011 and up from 55.3 in June.

Anything above 50 signals that manufacturing activity is growing. □



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US Financial Front:

Starbucks to revise policies to end irregular scheduling



Oscar Nunez drops his niece Jannette Navarro and her son Gavin off outside the Starbucks Coffee where she works in San Diego, Aug. 10, 2014. The coffeehouse chain announced on Aug. 14 that it will change its scheduling policies, following media reports of workers struggling to cope with erratic hours set by Starbucks' automated software.

(Sam Hodgson/The New York Times)

JODI KANTOR

© 2014 New York Times

Starbucks announced revisions this week to the way the company schedules its 130,000 baristas, saying it wanted to improve "stability and consistency" in work hours week to week.

The company intends to curb the much-loathed practice of "clopening," or workers closing the store late at night and returning just a few hours later to reopen, Cliff Burrows, the group president in charge of U.S. stores, wrote in an email to baristas across the country.

He specified that all work hours must be posted at least one week in advance, a policy that has been only loosely followed. Baristas with more than an hour's commute will be given the option to transfer to more convenient locations, he wrote, adding that scheduling software will be revised to allow more input

from managers.

The changes came in response to an article Wednesday in The New York Times about a single mother struggling to keep up with erratic hours set by automated software.

"This has given us a real opportunity to hear partners' voices and say, 'Are we being clear enough, and are our intents and practices being followed?'" Burrows said in a phone interview.

Although Burrows vowed in his letter to revise the company's scheduling software, he could not say how in the interview.

The change comes amid a growing push to curb scheduling practices, enabled by sophisticated software, that can cause havoc in employees' lives: giving only a few days' notice of working hours; sending workers home early when sales are slow; and shifting hours significantly from week

to week. Those practices have been common at Starbucks, and many other chains use even more severe methods, such as requiring workers to have "open availability," or be able to work anytime they are needed, or to stay "on call," meaning they only find out that morning if they are needed.

Some Starbucks workers greeted Thursday's announcement with mixed feelings.

"I'm generally pretty positive about Starbucks," Amber Tidwell, a barista in Fresno, California, said in a phone interview.

"Encouraging managers not to rely entirely on the automated software is the best thing they can do. But I'm doubtful of how many managers will actually do it," she said, because of the wide variation in how managers treat their employees.

As for the notice, "one week is actually a low-

road standard," said Carrie Gleason, a labor organizer with the Center for Popular Democracy, adding that many chains provide two or three weeks' notice of hours.

On Thursday night, she and other organizers posted a petition for Starbucks workers calling for better work policies.

Starbucks prides itself on progressive labor practices, such as offering health benefits and stock. But its goals - treating workers well and making profits - are in tension. Baristas across the country say that their actual working conditions vary wildly, and that the company often fails to live up to its professed ideals,

by refusing to offer any guaranteed hours to part-time workers and keeping many workers' pay at minimum wage.

Scheduling has been an issue at headquarters for years, said Tim Kern, who was an executive at Starbucks for two decades and is now starting a small coffee-roasting company of his own.

"Labor is the biggest controllable cost for front-line operators, who are under incredible pressure to hit financial targets," he said.

Jannette Navarro, the San Diego barista whose scheduling troubles were chronicled in Wednesday's Times article. □

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Rhoden Column:

Fresh Breeze Coming From Chicago's South Side

WILLIAM C. RHODEN

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When Joseph Haley founded the Chicago-based Jackie Robinson West Little League in 1971, there were no grand plans of winning state championships or reaching the Little League World Series.

There was a vision of using youth baseball to help black families moving into a previously all-white neighborhood unite and establish a sense of com-

ington, 12-2.

Along with a team from Philadelphia led by a phenomenal young pitcher, Mo'Ne Davis, Jackie Robinson West became an early World Series story line. There was a similar sentiment surrounding a team from Harlem in 2002.

Bill Haley said he remembered cheering for that team. "When you see kids from similar backgrounds and similar situations, you pull for them to be success-

team's appearance in the Little League World Series would prompt discussion about blacks in baseball. "The cool thing is the way people talk about it," he said. "Like, 'Wow, there is an all-black team out there; I didn't know there was an all-black team playing.' "The fact that people don't realize that there is a black team means that people are under the assumption that black kids aren't playing baseball. Hopefully this

Granderson said there was simply not much buzz about the game in predominantly black communities, where basketball dominates and football is another substantial presence.

Getting his peers to see baseball as a viable sports option was difficult, he said, so much so that when he accepted a baseball scholarship to UIC his friends seemed surprised that he was still involved in the sport.

Baseball could copy the Amateur Athletic Union model in basketball, in which major shoe companies provide financial support that allows talented teams to travel to tournaments. Baseball also needs to do a better job of putting black players in front of young people, he said.

"You have to make some major changes if you're serious about really getting more African-Americans into the game and staying in the game," Granderson said.

While Haley acknowledged that basketball was king in Chicago, he said the athletes on this year's Jackie Robinson team were a different breed. Perhaps a new breed.

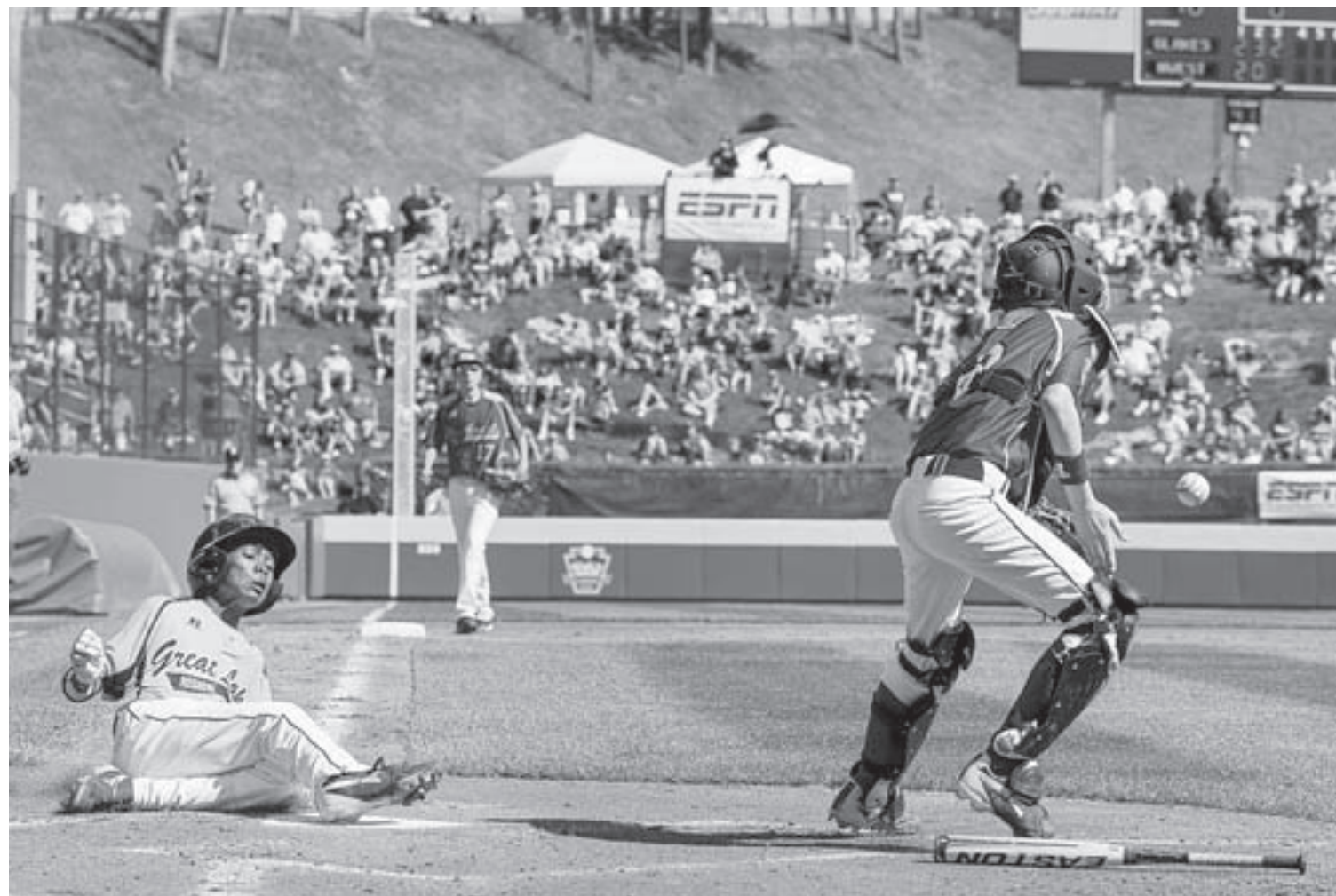
"These kids who are playing in Pennsylvania are baseball players," Haley said. "They won't switch over to anything else. They'll play baseball a long time."

The Jackie Robinson team is the best marketing for a sport that continues to lose ground to basketball and football. But Haley, asked if the success of his all-stars might lead to a surge of young black players in the majors, said that was not his concern.

"Our mission is absolutely not turning out major league baseball players," he said. "That is not a goal of ours in any way. I don't even focus on that. Our goal is to focus on getting as many kids involved as possible and get them to love the game as early as possible."

"The major leagues, I know is an issue for some people, but that's not my issue. It's not something I dwell on." For now he is focused on the journey to South Williamsport and having his team meet players from around the world and experiencing first-class treatment.

But primarily what Haley wants is to see the players compete to the best of their ability on a grand stage, to be excited by the environment, not intimidated by it. □



Ed Howard slides home to score for the Jackie Robinson West All-Stars, the Great Lakes representative to the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pa., Aug. 14, 2014. This Chicago-based team is bucking the trend of fewer black athletes playing baseball. (Brett Carlsen/The New York Times)

munity. Haley died in 2005 but the league he founded has blossomed and been carried forth by his son Bill and his widow, Annie.

"I'm sure he never envisioned anything like this," Bill Haley said.

A team of Jackie Robinson West All-Stars reached the Little League World Series in 1983. This year, after a drought of 31 years, a team from the league won the Great Lakes regional championship game. On Thursday, the team played its first game in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, beating Lynnwood, Wash-

ful and beat the odds," he said.

This year's Jackie Robinson West team has attracted the attention of New York Mets right fielder Curtis Granderson, who grew up in the suburbs south of Chicago. Granderson began playing baseball in the Lynwood Little League, but said he knew about Jackie Robinson West.

"A lot of my friends, guys my age, played in that league," he said.

Granderson said he liked what the Jackie Robinson West team represented, as well as the idea that the

could be something that sheds light both in the African-American community and the non-African-American community."

Granderson recently contributed \$5 million to the development of the Curtis Granderson Stadium at the University of Illinois-Chicago, where he played for three seasons and where his No. 28 was retired. The stadium will serve as the home of the university's baseball and softball teams and will serve more than 38 youth organizations in Chicago. Asked about the small number of blacks in baseball,

"They said, 'You're still doing that baseball thing?'" he said. "For them baseball was a thing, a hobby."

Even as baseball preaches diversity, the game continues to spiral economically out of the reach of an increasingly larger pool of potential players after Little League.

The cost of participation, especially with travel teams becoming the norm before players reach high school, can reach thousands of dollars a year.

To reverse the decline in black participation, Granderson said, Major League

Tens of thousands hold anti-PM rally in Pakistan

MUNIR AHMED

ZARAR KHAN

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters gathered in Pakistan's capital Islamabad late Friday in the pouring rain following the arrival of convoys led by a cricket star-turned-politician and a fiery anti-Taliban cleric.

The twin protests led by Imran Khan and the cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri represent the biggest challenge yet to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's year-old government and security had been tightened across the capital amid fears of unrest in a country with a long history of chaotic politics and military coups.

The protesters left the eastern city of Lahore on Thursday, vowing to march to the capital and camp out there until their demands for a new government are met. Despite the darkness and the lashing rain, the crowds swelled as they entered Islamabad shortly before midnight.

Police estimated some 60,000 people were taking



Supporters of Pakistan's cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan gather to march to Islamabad from Lahore, Pakistan. Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters gathered in Pakistan's capital Islamabad late Friday in the pouring rain following the arrival of convoys led by a cricket star-turned-politician and a fiery anti-Taliban cleric. (AP Photo/K.M. Chaudary)

part in the protest.

The protests were festive despite the rain, with demonstrators waving national and party flags and dancing to drum beats and patriotic songs. Women supporters of Qadri wearing Islamic headscarves lined the roads and waved to his convoy as it entered the city. As he approached the Islamabad airport, Khan

tweeted that he would stage the sit-in on the city's main Kashmir Highway. "Sharif should have his resignation ready," he said.

A spokesman for Qadri, Shahid Mursaleen, said the cleric would deliver a speech on Saturday to call for Sharif's removal and immediate arrest.

Sharif says he is ready to meet with his opponents

but has given no indication that he would step down. His critics accuse him of vote fraud during the election that brought him to power last year.

Sharif's spokesman, Perwaiz Rashid, condemned the "irresponsible behavior and actions" of his opponents. "Pakistan is not a banana republic, where a few thousand people

come and seek the resignation of the country's prime minister," he told a local news channel.

Earlier Friday, as the march led by Khan passed through the city of Gujranwala, supporters of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N hurled stones at the convoy, said Khan, who was unharmed.

PML-N leader Rana Sanaulah told the Dawn news channel that both sides threw stones at each other. Mohammed Azeem, a police officer in Gujranwala, about 40 miles (70 kilometers) from Lahore, said some 200 ruling party supporters clashed with Khan's protesters but that "the situation is under control."

Both Khan and Qadri have vowed to bring one million of their followers into the streets of Islamabad, a city of roughly 1.7 million inhabitants.

Thousands of riot police have been deployed across the capital. Authorities set up shipping containers to block traffic and cut off cellphone service in some areas. □

EU:

Status quo for Gaza 'not an option'

JUERGEN BAETZ

M. DARAGHMEH

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union offered Friday to take charge of Gaza's border crossings and work to prevent illegal arms flows, insisting on a durable truce and saying a return to the status quo before the latest war "is not an option."

As EU foreign ministers held an urgent meeting in Brussels about global conflicts, Hamas negotiators met with the Islamic militant group's leadership in Qatar to discuss a proposal for a long-term truce with Israel. An official said the group was inclined to accept the Egyptian-mediated offer. The Gaza blockade remains the main stumbling block. It has greatly limited the movement of Palestinians in and out of the ter-

ritory of 1.8 million people, restricted the flow of goods into Gaza and blocked virtually all exports.

The EU is prepared "to play a strong role" in managing the crossings while assuring that Israel's security is guaranteed, said the 28-nation bloc's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton.

The EU offered to reactivate and extend its monitoring of the Rafah crossing with Egypt and other border posts, provided there will be a U.N. Security Council mandate for the mission and a sustainable cease-fire in place. In addition, the EU says Israel must lift its blockade to allow "a fundamental improvement in the living conditions for the Palestinian people in Gaza."

The EU foreign ministers said the bloc is also prepared to prevent arms

smuggling and launch a training program for Palestinian Authority police and customs officers to be deployed in Gaza. "The situation in the Gaza Strip has been unsustainable for many years and a return to the status quo prior to the latest conflict is not an option," they said.

Israel and Hamas are observing a five-day temporary cease-fire in an attempt to allow indirect talks in Cairo to continue. The negotiations are meant to secure a substantive end to the monthlong Gaza war and draw up a roadmap for the coastal territory, which has been hard-hit in the fighting.

Hamas is demanding the lifting of the blockade Israel and Egypt imposed after the militant group seized power in Gaza in 2007. □

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Iraqis welcome change of PM but challenges loom



In this Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014 handout photo from the Iraqi government, Iraq's prime minister for the past eight years, Nouri al-Maliki, speaks at a podium surrounded by Iraqi lawmakers, during an address to the nation, announcing that he is stepping down in Baghdad, Iraq. Al-Maliki relinquished his post Thursday to fellow Dawa Party member Haider al-Abadi, seen at left, ending a political deadlock that has plunged the country into uncertainty as it fights a Sunni militant insurgency.

(AP Photo/Iraqi Government))

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Nouri al-Maliki's decision to step down as Iraq's prime minister raised hopes Friday for a new government that can roll back an increasingly powerful Sunni insurgency and prevent the country

from splitting apart. But to do that his successor has to unify Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish factions that deeply distrust each other and have conflicting demands, all while dealing with a humanitarian crisis and the extremists' continuing rampage in the north. The man tapped to be-

come the next prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, a veteran Shiite lawmaker, faces the immense challenge of trying to unite Iraqi politicians as he cobbles together a Cabinet in just over three weeks. Al-Abadi said Friday his government will be based on "efficiency and integ-

rity, to salvage the country from security, political and economic problems" — but that is easier said than done in a country where forming a government often falls victim to roadblocks and infighting. Sunni politicians are pressing for greater political influence, saying their disenfranchisement under al-Maliki's Shiite-dominated government fueled support among the Sunni minority for the insurgency, led by the extremist Islamic State group. At the same time, the military needs significant bolstering after falling apart in the face of the militants' advance and proving incapable of taking back lost territory.

"Sunnis and Kurds were present in the Maliki government, but rarely included in the key decision-making process," said retired Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmet, former military spokesman for coalition forces in Iraq. "One hopes that al-Abadi understands that inclusion has to be more than mere participation."

Many Iraqis expressed a sense of relief Friday that al-Maliki had relented after weeks of insisting on a third four-year term, fueling a political crisis that raised fears of a coup in a country with a long history of violent power grabs.

During Friday prayers in Baghdad's Shiite Sadr City district, a man distributed sweets to Shiite worshippers, proclaiming, "Saddam has been brought down."

The comparison of al-Maliki to the late dictator Saddam Hussein showed the depth of opposition to the outgoing prime minis-

ter even among some of his fellow Shiites. Sadr City is dominated by followers of powerful Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, one of al-Maliki's harshest critics. Six years ago, al-Maliki sent security forces to battle al-Sadr's militias to establish his authority and project his image as a national leader. "We congratulate the Iraqi people for the victory that has been done this week. It is the week of congratulations," said Ali Talaqani, a preacher loyal to al-Sadr, in his sermon to Sadr City worshippers.

Shiite factions turned against al-Maliki largely because they saw him as a domineering leader who monopolized power and allowed widespread corruption. Critics say he staffed the military's officer corps with incompetent loyalists, playing a major role in the army's collapse in the face of the Islamic State militants over the past two months. Sunni factions also accused him of widespread corruption. But their principle grievance was that his government sidelined their community, carrying out sweeping arrest raids and violently dispersing protests. "We are ready to cooperate with al-Abadi to make him succeed in his mission on the condition that the demands of our Sunni people are met," Ahmed al-Misari, a Sunni lawmaker, told The Associated Press. "Our demands include stopping the army shelling of Sunni cities, releasing detainees, abolishing anti-terrorism laws, ending discrimination against our people and letting the people of Sunni provinces handle the security in their areas." □



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After restive weeks, new fighting hits South Sudan

JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — After a lull of several weeks, fighting broke out in South Sudan on Friday, forcing aid workers to take cover in a city where more than 40,000 civilians are huddled in a U.N. base. The country's rebel leader blamed the government for spending oil money on new weapons amid mass hunger in the country.

Riek Machar, the country's former vice president and current rebel leader, told The Associated Press that China should stop sending weapons to South Sudan's government. He said government funds, which come from oil revenue, should be spent on citizens who face severe hunger.

Aid leaders fear that South Sudan could be facing a famine. Since December, more than 1 million people have fled their homes, meaning crops were not planted before seasonal rains began. The violence often pits one ethnic group against another in the world's newest country. South Sudan broke off from larger Sudan in 2011.

Samantha Power, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said during a Security Council trip to South Sudan this week that U.N. officials have "very worrying reports" of arms being brought into the country to set the stage for more fighting when the rains end.

Despite the signing of two peace deals this year, and despite the fact the rainy season continues, fighting broke out in the city of Bentiu, where a U.N. base is packed with people seeking safety from attacks. Bentiu has traded hands multiple times since violence spread across South Sudan last December. Government troops have been in control of it in recent weeks. "We heard the sound of fighting and took cover in the bunkers as it started to get closer," said Timothy Ngyu-ai, CARE's project manager in Bentiu. "We're back at work now, providing life-saving assistance to those who have fled the violence and have chartered a flight for tomorrow morning to bring medicine to help treat the sick and wounded."

The U.N. Security Council met with President Salva Kiir and spoke with Machar via video conference this week. Power said the two leaders should set aside their differences and urgently resolve the political crisis.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, during this month's U.S.-Africa summit in Washington, accused Machar's side of breaking the peace deals that have been brokered. Kerry added: "Deadlines keep passing and innocent people keep dying. The log-rolling and delay has to end."

Machar denied that his side is responsible for violence and instead blamed Kiir.

Machar noted that he has been in Ethiopia — the site of peace talks — since May. The former vice president said he wants direct negotiations with Kiir's government instead of a suggested structure that civil society and religious leaders also take part. □

China Catholics cheer pope's Korea visit

C. BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese Catholics on Friday cheered Pope Francis' visit to neighboring South Korea, saying they hoped his trip to their region would help end the estrangement between Beijing and the Vatican. But in a sign that the decades-long China-Vatican drama still has its glitches, the Vatican acknowledged that a telegram of greetings sent by Francis to the Chinese leadership apparently never arrived.

The Vatican sent the telegram from Francis' chartered Alitalia plane as it entered Chinese airspace early Thursday, following Vatican protocol that calls for the pope to send such greetings whenever he flies over a foreign country.

Such telegrams usually go unnoticed. But the gesture took on unique significance because the Vatican and China have no diplomatic relations — and therefore no official contacts — and because Beijing had refused to let St. John Paul II fly through its airspace when he visited South Korea in 1989.

But the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said Friday it appeared the telegram never arrived. China's embassy to Italy asked the Holy See for a copy of the telegram, saying it hadn't received it. A copy was immediately provided to the embassy, he said.

"It happens that maybe when you send a telegram by a flying plane there are some problems in receiving it," Lombardi said, adding that he understood the telegram is actually sent by the pilot to the air traffic control tower, which then is responsible for relaying it onto the correct destina-

tion. "But in any case, the telegram has arrived now. It surely has arrived."

Despite the glitch, China's Foreign Ministry responded to reports of the telegram with a statement Thursday saying it remained committed to es-

secretary general of the Beijing diocese. "We have hope that one day the two countries of China and the Vatican will establish diplomatic ties and that the pope will be able to visit China."

China severed relations



A Chinese priest holds up a bible during a mass at the 400-year-old Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Beijing, China, Friday, Aug. 15, 2014. Chinese Catholics on Friday cheered Pope Francis' visit to neighboring South Korea, saying they hoped his trip to their region would help end the estrangement between Beijing and the Vatican. However, China's entirely state-run media imposed a virtual news blackout on his visit, ensuring the public at large would know little about Francis' activities. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

establishing a "constructive dialogue" and improving ties.

However, China's entirely state-run media imposed a virtual news blackout on the visit, ensuring the public at large would know little about Francis' activities. In another sign of Beijing's continuing ambivalence toward relations with the Holy See, reports said officials were preventing some Chinese Catholics and clergy from taking part in the activities in South Korea under threat of reprisals.

On Friday, Catholic laypeople and priests who flocked to a Mass at Beijing's oldest church said they felt closer to the pope. All expressed hopes for a papal visit in the not-too-distant future.

"I believe this is a step forward in advancing communication," said the Rev. Mathew Zhen Xuebin,

with the Holy See in 1951 after the officially atheistic Communist Party took power and set up its own church outside the pope's authority. China persecuted the church for years until restoring a degree of religious freedom and freeing imprisoned priests in the late 1970s.

Relations have been tense over Beijing's demand that it have the right to appoint bishops, even those unacceptable to the Vatican. The Holy See says that key prerogative belongs to it alone and the disagreement tops the list of those blocking reconciliation.

In a telling sign that Francis is toeing a very delicate political line with China, he artfully dodged a question posed to him Friday by a young man from Hong Kong about what could be done to help the faithful in mainland China. □

Panama Canal turns 100 as expansion hits snags

JUAN ZAMORANO

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — It was supposed to be a grand celebration of the engineering triumph that forged a nation.

Instead, the 100th anniversary of the Panama Canal's opening Friday is being marred by doubts about the country's ability to harness the full benefits of a multibillion-dollar expansion beset by cost overruns, strikes and the threat of competition from rival projects.

The latest setback in the canal's expansion came in May, when about 5,000 laborers walked off the job for two weeks as part of a strike over wages by construction workers nationwide. That followed a two-week stoppage in February in a dispute over \$1.6 billion in extra costs between the canal's administrator and the European contractor building a third new set of locks.

Because of the interruptions and overspending, the original completion date of this October has been pushed back by 14 months and analysts say more delays can't be ruled out.

The construction of the

77-kilometer (48-mile) ship canal across the Isthmus of Panama a century ago transformed international trade, greatly reducing travel time between the Atlantic and the Pacific by eliminating the need for ships to go around the tip of South America. The construction claimed the lives of an estimated 30,000 workers, many from diseases

like malaria and yellow fever.

As part of the \$5.25 billion expansion project, wider locks with mechanical gates will reduce congestion and be able accommodate post-Panamex vessels, which are as long as three football fields and have the capacity to carry about 2.5 times the number of containers than held

by ships currently using the canal. Canal administrator Jorge Quijano acknowledges he would have liked to finish the expansion in time for Friday's centennial. "But we knew from the beginning a project as complex as this wouldn't necessarily be done" on time, he said. Not everyone is as understanding.

Taiwanese President Ma

Ying-jeou complained about the delays during a recent visit to Panama, saying they affect his country's trade with the United States. Two major cargo shippers, Denmark's Maersk and Taiwan's Evergreen, have already rerouted part of their operations, depriving the canal of about \$80 million a year, Quijano says.

When funding for the expansion was approved by a referendum in 2006, its completion was envisioned as a coming out party for Panama, a chance to showcase the country's pro-business credentials and role as a linchpin of global commerce.

Backers portrayed the vote as a bet on the future of Panama's children in a country where poverty still affects a third of the population, a stain on what is arguably Latin America's most-thriving economy. For the most part, the canal has blossomed under Panamanian management, contributing more than \$8.5 billion in government revenue since the Americans handed it over on Dec. 31, 1999.

But competition is lurking. Egypt is embarking on an expansion of the Suez Canal, and a Chinese firm was recently awarded a contract to build a waterway through Nicaragua, the path initially favored by 19th century American engineers. While just a threat on paper for now, Panamanian authorities have responded with the possibility of digging a fourth set of locks to maintain dominance.

Reflecting the more subdued mood, President Juan Carlos Varela opposed suggestions that the centennial be declared a national holiday. "The anniversary is best celebrated by working," he told journalists recently. "Panama already has plenty of free days."

Panamanians will celebrate their canal's anniversary with an evening of fireworks and a free concert by salsa crooner Ruben Blades. □



Two cargo ships sail through the Miraflores locks on the Panama Canal in Panama City. The Aug. 15 centennial of the opening of the Panama Canal is being marred by increasing doubts about Panama's expansion of the U.S.-built waterway. Disputes between the government and the project's European contractor, as well as labor unions, mean an already-delayed December 2015 completion deadline is unlikely to be met.

(AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

Santos endorses medical marijuana for Colombia

CESAR GARCIA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— President Juan Manuel Santos this week endorsed newly introduced legislation that would legalize marijuana for medicinal and therapeutic use in this drug war-afflicted Andean nation.

Santos, a proponent of rethinking prohibitionist drug policies, made the announcement at a drug policy forum Thursday in Colombia's capital, Bogota. It was his first major drug policy statement since he won re-election in June.

The bill introduced last month by a governing coalition senator is "a practical, compassionate measure to reduce the pain (and) anxiety of patients

with terminal illnesses, but also a way of beginning to strip from the hands of criminals the role of intermediary between the patient and the substance that allows them to relieve their suffering," Santos said. In the Americas, Uruguay has approved legal pot and Jamaica's justice minister announced in June plans to legalize the drug for religious and medical purposes and decriminalize the possession of amounts up to 2 ounces (57 grams). Possession of no more than 20 grams of marijuana for personal use is currently legal in Colombia.

The medicinal-use bill was introduced by Sen. Juan Manuel Galan, whose father was assassinated in 1989 by cocaine traffick-

ers. He told The Associated Press that other countries in the region considering similar measures include Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

Galan said his hope is to have his bill, which would put the distribution of medical marijuana under government control, gain final legislative approval next June.

Ethan Nadelmann, director of the New York-based Drug Policy Alliance, said some U.S. states as well as countries including Israel and Canada are well advanced in offering government-administered legal medical marijuana, while a bill was introduced last week in the Central American nation of Costa Rica. In Colombia, marijuana plantations help enrich

leftist rebels and right-wing paramilitary bands alike, although cocaine is a bigger business for them.

The commander of Colombia's counterdrug police, Gen. Ricardo Restrepo, told the AP that the country currently has about 1.5 square miles (390 hectares) of marijuana fields and that a pound costs about \$230. Colombia is the world's No. 2 cocaine-producing country after Peru, according to the United Nations and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. It was the global leader until 2012.

A two-decade U.S.-backed crackdown on Colombia's drug cartels and extensive aerial eradication of coca crops has somewhat diminished and compartmentalized the trade. □



Playa Linda invests In The Aruba Food Bank

PALM BEACH – In maintaining its ongoing efforts to provide a meaningful contribution to the community, the Playa Linda Beach Resort continues to support the Aruba Food Bank as its recipient of regular donations made by its members and guests. Through a voluntary donation program, through which a dollar may be pledged per room night, the Playa Linda has been successful in raising thousands of dollars in helping to feed the disadvantaged in Aruba since first introducing the initiative in 2011. The Playa Linda is now hoping to help the “Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad” (Foundation for Our Community) or FPNC, which runs the Aruba Food Bank, extend its reach. The Food Bank already helps numerous families – with children representing 49% of its clients -- by providing regular food supplies. In 2013, FPNC distributed more than 3,000 monthly food baskets over the course of the year, an almost 10% increase over last year. But, as FPNC Director Francis Quandt points out,



many more individuals and families are in need of assistance.

FPNC works together with different public, private and volunteer organizations with similar goals, including the Department of

Social Affairs, White Yellow Cross, Red Cross, FCCA, and CEDEHM in coordinating its various efforts. Along with managing Aruba's only Food Bank, FPNC also provides needed clothing, furniture and house

wares as well as focuses on education and reintegration efforts in order to assist families in getting back up on their own feet again as soon as possible.

“When our guests arrive at the front desk, they often know nothing of the program or the foundation, but our own passion for the FPNC's excellent work comes across when we explain what it does for the community and how well it works to feed families and children most at risk,” explains HR Manager Sulaika Kelly. “As an active member of the community, Playa Linda strives to be a role model and stress how important it is for each one of us to give back whenever and wherever possible in order to do the most good. In the end, it benefits us all.” Although Playa Linda guests have proven generous, FPNC needs additional support to help ensure that

no one, especially no child, goes hungry in Aruba.

Donations are welcome through area banks: Aruba Bank # 1000; Banco di Caribe #1000; CMB Bank #60001000; or RBC Bank #4419502.

FPNC is also hard at work in organizing fundraising activities. Recently, FPNC held its Back-to-School Bazaar and Radiothon, with the participation of Radio Caliente 90.7 FM and Cool FM, at the Palm Beach Plaza.

The entire community is also encouraged to turn out for FPNC's main fundraising event upcoming soon.

FPNC will feature a huge sale, health expo and fun walk from the Playa Abou Community Center. A full-day program of fun, food, music and activities is dedicated toward raising a target goal of 60,000 florins, and helping to feed Aruba's most vulnerable individuals. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honors Goodwill Ambassadors!



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two loyal and friendly guests as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees are Tony and Maria Messina, residents of Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada.

All the honorees are loyal members of La Cabana and they love Aruba very much. Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and La Cabana is their home away from home. The certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mathilda at La Cabana Beach Resort. □



Think

By: Roland W. Peterson

Always think that you think you are the person you think you are, because when you think you are the person you think you are, you are the person you think you are not, you may think wrong the rest of your life. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

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When they visit Aruba Hedy and Denise love the water, the people, the food, and the fact that Aruba is a beautiful and safe place to vacation. When they aren't having a blast at the beach or resting up in the Radisson they are enjoying their favorite foods and drinks at Bugaloe, catching up with old friends. Their favorite Bugaloe foods are Garlic Shrimp, Grouper Salad and the Grilled Whole Fish- yum! An Amstel Bright rounds out the rest of the meal.

They return to Bugaloe time after time to enjoy the fun



atmosphere and hospitality. When asked what they liked most about Bugaloe they replied, 'Everything! The location is great. The view is beautiful, the wind blows, and there is amazing food and awesome staff. You can't complain about the live music, either!'

Their fondest Bugaloe memory involved logging

into Facebook one day and discovering that Bugaloe had renovated their bathroom. They were very excited until they appeared at Bugaloe and realized it was all an April Fool's joke!

April Fools or not, Hedy and Denise are part of the wild and wacky group of people that call Bugaloe home on Aruba. ☐

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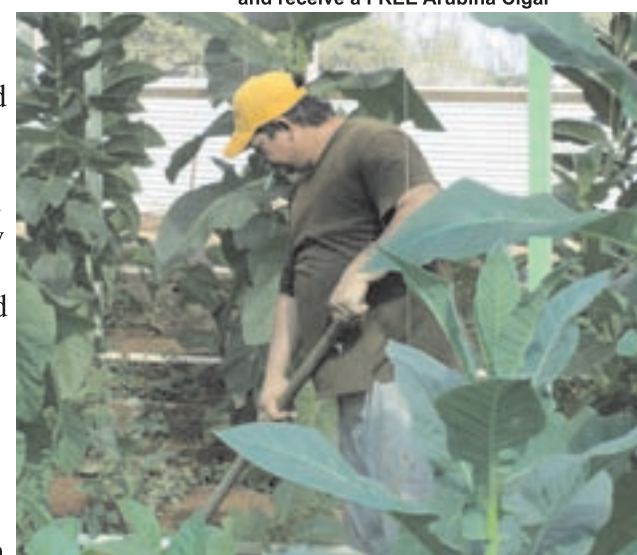
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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hand against Jelena Jankovic, from Serbia, during a match at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 15, 2014, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

Federer, Serena Williams reach Cincy semifinals

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

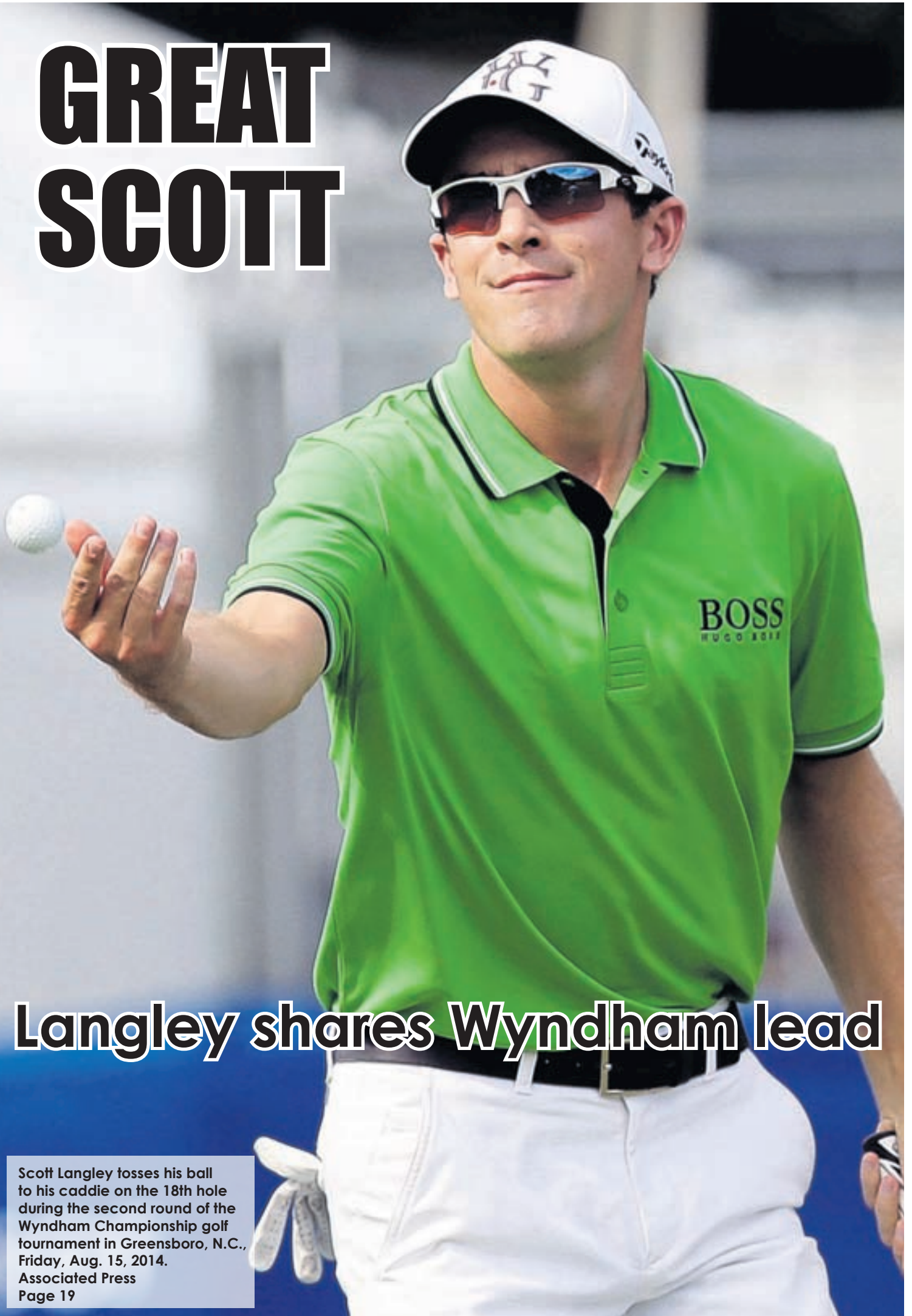
MASON, Ohio (AP) — Roger Federer still has his touch in Cincinnati.

The Swiss star beat Andy Murray 6-3, 7-5 on Friday night and advanced to the semifinals of the Western & Southern Open, a tournament he has won an unprecedented five times already. He'll face Canada's Milos Raonic in the next round. The second-seeded Federer was on the offensive from the first point as he evened their career series at 11 wins apiece and showed he's going to be tough to beat. Murray had saved all five break points this week, holding service in 26 games. He fought off that many break points in his first two games against Federer, who kept the pressure on, broke him to go up 3-2 and served it out.

Murray appeared to gain a toehold when he broke Federer twice for a 4-1 lead in the second set, but Federer broke him twice to even it and then one more time to finish it off.

Continued on Next Page

GREAT SCOTT



Langley shares Wyndham lead

Scott Langley tosses his ball to his caddie on the 18th hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 15, 2014.
Associated Press
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Cincy semifinals

Continued from previous page

"Pretty poor tennis from that stage of the match," Murray said. "I don't remember hitting very many good shots after the 4-1 game."

"I blew it. Yeah. It's a shame."

While Federer is trying to make it a half-dozen trophies in Cincinnati, Serena Williams is still trying for No. 1.

Williams reached the semifinals on Friday, needing only 58 minutes to beat Jelena Jankovic 6-1, 6-3 with a dominating performance that left her feeling good about her chances. One caveat: She's felt this way before and lost.

"Sure, I'd love to win here," Williams said. "But at the same time, I don't want to put that pressure on myself. I'm trying to stay pressure-free."

She advanced a day after Novak Djokovic was upset in straight sets by Tommy

Robredo, ending his quest for the only Masters title that has eluded him. Djokovic wanted to win the title this week and become the first player to take all nine Masters events.

Instead, it's Williams who has the chance to go for an elusive title. She lost in the final last year to Victoria Azarenka, dropping a third-set tiebreaker. She has reached the semifinals only one other time (2006).

Williams' overall performance Friday was one of the best of her six Cincinnati appearances.

"I feel really good," said Williams, who had seven aces. "I feel I'm really relaxed now."

Williams will face Caroline Wozniacki, who beat Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 7-6 (5) to reach the semifinals in Cincinnati for the first time in seven tries.

Wozniacki made her WTA debut as a 15-year-old wild



Roger Federer, of Switzerland, returns a serve to Andy Murray, of Britain, at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Friday Aug. 15, 2014, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

card in Cincinnati in 2005. She thinks about that moment whenever she returns, though it hasn't helped her very much on the court.

"Of all the tournaments in the United States, Cincinnati is probably the tourna-

ment where I've done the least well," she said. "So it's nice to take that extra step."

In the men's bracket, Julien Benneteau upset Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka 1-6, 6-1, 6-2. The

third-seeded Wawrinka needed only 20 minutes to win the first set, then unraveled with unforced errors. Benneteau reached the semifinals in Cincinnati for the first time by taking advantage.

"I can feel that he became tight and he forced and he made some mistakes, some unforced errors that he doesn't normally do," Benneteau said.

The fifth-seeded Raonic beat 15th-seeded Fabio Fognini 6-1, 6-0 in 57 minutes. Sixth-seeded David Ferrer knocked off Robredo 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, reaching the semifinals for the first time in 11 appearances in Cincinnati. □



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Slocum, Langley share lead at Wyndham

JOEDY McCREARY

AP Sports Writer

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) — Heath Slocum and Scott Langley each

shot 5-under 65 for the second straight day Friday to share the lead at the Wyndham Championship on 10-under 130.

Brian Stuard, Nick Watney, Martin Laird and Andrew Svoboda were a stroke back. Watney and Svoboda shot 64, Stuard had a 65 and Laird a 66.

Ryo Ishikawa had the best round of the day — a 62 that was one stroke off the course record and included six birdies on the back nine.

The field is littered with players trying to prolong their seasons for at least one more week by cracking the top 125 on the points list and qualifying for the first round of the playoffs, which begin next week at The Barclays in New Jersey. Langley isn't one of them. At No. 81 on the points list, his spot next week is safe, so the second-year pro's main concern is chasing his first PGA Tour victory.

He isn't feeling quite as much stress as he did here last year, when he missed the cut yet squeaked into The Barclays at No. 124.

"Last year, so much going through my head as a rookie, not knowing how to handle it," Langley said. "I was thinking a little too much about things that I really have no control over in terms of keeping my card, what other guys are doing. Lesson learned."

Langley ran off three straight birdies early in his round and closed with two in a row after putting both of his approach shots less than 6 feet from the stick. Slocum's is at No. 158 but is well aware that if you can



Heath Slocum watches his tee shot on the 18th hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 15, 2014.

Associated Press

somehow get into the playoffs, anything can happen. Five years ago, he made the playoffs "by the skin of my teeth" at No. 124 — and then went on to win The Barclays.

"I came into this week trying to create a little bit of momentum for me to whether I could somehow get myself into the playoffs or the (Web.com) finals," Slocum said.

Slocum had seven birdies and moved atop the leaderboard after a run of four in a row late during his second consecutive 65.

He sank a 20-foot birdie

putt on the 13th before twice sticking approach shots within seven feet of the flagstick and converting those short putts.

That put him in position to challenge for his fifth PGA Tour victory and first since the McGladrey Classic in 2010. "I do miss this feeling of being in contention," Slocum said. "Not being in contention for a while, I'm going to savor it."

Svoboda briefly joined them at 10 under with a birdie on the 17th, but slipped back after missing a 20-foot par putt on the 18th and closing with a bo-

gey.

First-round leader Camilo Villegas, who opened with a 63, put two strong rounds together after his 69 left him in a pack of players two strokes back.

He had three birdies but closed his round with his first two bogeys of the tournament.

Still, his low score was an indication of progress: He struggled each of the last two times he held a first-round lead, missing the cut at last year's Honda Classic and finishing 71st at the John Deere.

"The golf course is not easy,"

Villegas said. "Seven-under out here was pretty good yesterday. One under out here today wasn't bad. I'll take that and keep going." Among those bubble players who came to Sedgefield hoping to play their way into the postseason, No. 125 Paul Casey shot a 69 to move to 6 under and put himself well past the cut line of 2 under.

Others ran into bubble trouble: No. 122 Robert Allenby, No. 127 Charlie Beljan and No. 128 Greg Chalmers were among the borderline players who missed the cut. □

First female Little League player happy for 2 girls

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) -- More than six decades after Kathryn "Tubby" Johnston Massar cut off her braids, tucked her hair under her cap and became the first girl to play Little League baseball, she's delighted to see two girls in the Little League World Series.

"It's truly amazing. I'm very happy to see girls playing," said Massar, 78, of Yuba City, California.

Canada's Emma March and Philadelphia's Mo'ne Davis became the 17th and 18th girls to play in the tournament Friday. It is only the third time in the event's 68-year history that two girls are playing in the same series.

Davis threw a two-hitter to help Philadelphia beat



Philadelphia's Mo'ne Davis delivers a pitch during her team's 4-0 win over Nashville in a U.S. pool play baseball game at the Little League World Series, Friday, Aug. 15, 2014, in South Williamsport, Pa.

2-2, she struck out looking on a pitch that caught the outside corner.

As March trotted back to the dugout, the crowd let the umpire know its opinion of the call as boos reigned down from the stands.

Massar, slated to throw out the first pitch at one of Monday's games, believes more girls will start to play in Little League and beyond. She thinks eventually there will be a woman in Major League Baseball.

Massar played in 1950, leading to a rule barring girls from playing. That rule was overturned in 1974. The self-described "trail-blazer" said she celebrates her role in history.

"It's something I'm proud of," she said. "Why not play baseball with the boys?" Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett was in South Williamsport on Friday and watched Davis' dominating performance.

"There's a lot of pressure on her, and she seems to be handling it very, very well for her age," Corbett said during the Philadelphia game, adding that the 13-year-old has a nice delivery.

"It goes to show you how sports have moved the last 30 or 40 years, and we wouldn't have thought of this 40 or 50 years ago. And today, she's out there pitching, doing a great job and I'm sitting there thinking, 'Is she going to go into professional baseball?' I don't know.

"She's played as well as any kid out there right now."

Also Friday in U.S. play, Pearland, Texas, faced Cumberland, Rhode Island. In the other International game, Japan beat Venezuela 1-0.

The tournament opened with four games Thursday. In the U.S. bracket, Chicago beat Lynnwood, Washington 12-2 in five innings, and Las Vegas topped Rapid City, South Dakota, 12-2, also in five innings. In the International games, Seoul, South Korea, beat Brno, Czech Republic, 10-3, and Humacao, Puerto Rico, topped Perth, Australia, 16-3 in four innings.

Associated Press

Nashville 4-0. She had eight strikeouts and didn't walk a batter.

Davis, who received a noticeably louder reception than any other player during introductions, said she noticed plenty of girls younger than her in the audience. The applause heightened significantly when Davis struck out the final batter, becoming the first girl to throw a shutout in Little League World Series history.

"It's very unreal. I never thought at the age of 13 I would be a role model," Davis said. "Hopefully, more girls play Little League."

March did not fare as well. Batting cleanup ahead of her brother - Evan - and playing first base, she went hitless Friday in Canada's 4-3 loss to Mexico.

But March created some excitement when she stepped into the batter's box for the Vancouver, British Columbia, team.

She drove a long fly ball to right field in the fourth inning that the crowd thought might be a home run. However, the hit sailed foul into the stands.

Then in the top of the fifth, March stepped to the plate with the bases loaded and Canada down by two runs.

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NASCAR bars drivers from exiting cars after wrecks

By NOAH TRISTER

AP Sports Writer

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) --

Even Jimmie Johnson has a temper - one that was on display long before he became a six-time champion and one of NASCAR's most respected drivers.

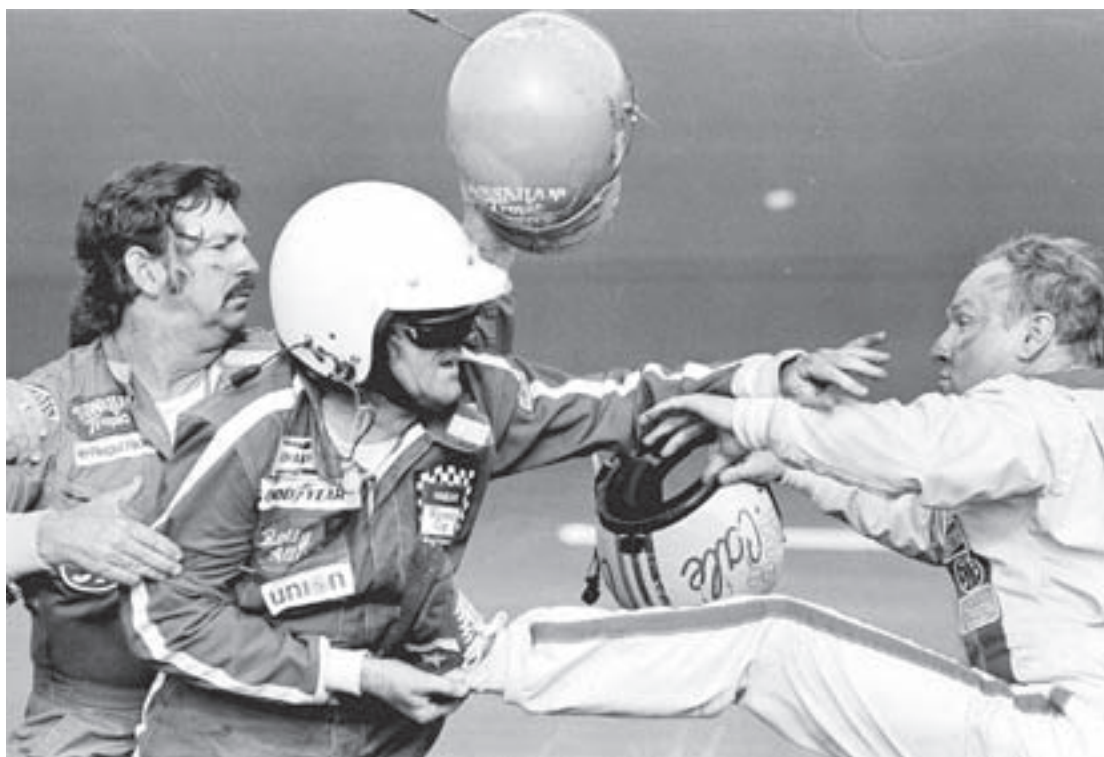
"I guess the one experience that comes to mind for me in Cup was maybe my rookie year at Bristol," he said. "Robby Gordon wrecked me on a restart, and I got out and shot him the bird."

NASCAR has thrived for years thanks to the personalities of some of its biggest stars and that includes an occasional feud, gesture or angry encounter on the track. But less than a week after Kevin Ward Jr. was killed during a sprint car race in New York after being struck by a car driven by Tony Stewart, NASCAR on Friday barred its drivers from approaching the track or moving cars after an incident during the race.

"Through time you have to recognize when you get a reminder or tap on the shoulder, something

that may need to be addressed," said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR's vice president of competition and racing development. "This is one of those times where we look outside our sport and we look at other things, and we feel like it was time to address this." Johnson said he supports NASCAR's rule addition. The father of two also has a slightly different perspective now on his "salute" to Gordon all those years ago.

"I'm sure I picked up a few fans and lost a few fans," he said. "Now, as a parent, if my child's hero was out there shooting the bird to another ballplayer, baseball player or football player or whatever it was, I'd probably try to steer my kids away from that. So, it depends. I don't think that entertainment value should come with any safety implications. Safety is the No. 1 priority for drivers, crew members, and the officials that are out there on the race track. And if it turns a few fans off, then in my opinion, they're a fan for the wrong reason."



In this Feb. 18, 1979 file photo, Bobby Allison holds race driver Cale Yarborough's foot after Yarborough kicked him following an incident on the final lap of the Daytona 500 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

The new rule takes effect immediately and applies to all NASCAR series.

"Really, we're formalizing rules that have been there," Pemberton said. "It's reminders that take place during drivers meetings with drivers about on-track accidents."

IndyCar reviewed its safety

guidelines after Ward's death and the protocol is similar to what NASCAR announced Friday, IndyCar spokesman Mike Kitchel said. Drivers are supposed to stay put until a safety team arrives unless there is a fire or other extenuating circumstances.

It remains to be seen how

NASCAR will enforce its provision, and how much the threat of penalties will deter drivers in the heat of the moment.

"There's still going to be confrontations out there and that's never going to change. People will still get mad at each other," Joey Logano said.

Last Saturday, Stewart's car struck Ward during a sprint car race in Canandaigua, New York. After Stewart's car appeared to clip Ward's car, sending it spinning, Ward left the car during the caution period, walked down the track and was hit by Stewart.

Stewart, who could face criminal charges, is skipping this weekend's Sprint Cup race at Michigan International Speedway. He did not race last week at Watkins Glen, a few hours after Ward was killed.

Stewart once threw his helmet at Matt Kenseth's car. In 2003, Kevin Harvick climbed on the roof of his car to shout at Ricky Rudd, who had nudged him from behind late in a race. The 1979 Daytona 500 is remembered for a last-lap crash between Donnie Allison and Cale Yarborough as they raced for the lead. The crash led to a three-man fight after Allison's brother, Bobby, pulled up to the accident scene.

Chiefs WR Dwayne Bowe suspended for season opener

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) --

Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Dwayne Bowe was suspended for the season opener against Tennessee on Friday for violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy.

Bowe was pulled over for speeding in a Kansas City suburb on Nov. 10, and was arrested after police found a black bag containing his wallet, driver's license and two containers of suspected marijuana. He later pleaded guilty to amended charges of defective equipment and littering, and his attorney said there was no admission of guilt for the marijuana charge, which was dismissed.

Bowe, who signed a \$56 million, five-year deal last

offseason, issued a statement through the NFL Players' Association shortly after the suspension was announced.

"I made an error in judgment. I take responsibility for my mistake and it will not happen again," he said. "I will be supporting my teammates in Week 1, and I cannot wait to get back on the field to help us win in Week 2 and beyond as we work toward our goal of winning the Super Bowl." The one-game suspension is in line with punishments that have been handed down by the league in similar cases. Bowe will still be eligible to participate in preseason practices and games.

The loss of Bowe, even for one game, is significant for the Chiefs, who have

struggled to find reliable wide receivers for years. They have several young players trying to earn a job in training camp, but Donnie Avery provides the only other veteran presence in the entire corps.

"We are disappointed in the situation and will miss him on the field," the Chiefs said in a statement, "but we support the league's decision. The club will have no further comment."

This isn't the first time that the 30-year-old Bowe has proven to be a distraction. He was suspended four games in 2009 for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing drugs after taking what his agent called an unapproved weight-loss supplement. He also made questionable comments to a magazine



Kansas City Chiefs receiver Dwayne Bowe (82) makes a reception during practice Sunday morning, Aug. 10, 2014, on the Missouri Western State University campus in St. Joseph, Mo.

Associated Press

a few years ago about womanizing that allegedly occurred at team hotels, and then misstated the name of Chiefs ownership family in his apology.

Bowe struggled to adjust to new coach Andy Reid's offense last season, catching just 57 passes for 673 yards and five touchdowns.

Cousins hurts knee in U.S. practice, not serious

JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP)

DeMarcus Cousins had a big bag of ice on his right knee while he watched the end of practice Thursday. He briefly covered his face with a towel as trainers milled around his table next to the folded gym bleachers.

Just making it to the World Cup of Basketball is proving to be quite a chore for the U.S. national team.

Cousins was injured when he tangled with Anthony Davis after both big men hit the floor during practice. An MRI on Cousins' knee showed no structural damage.

The test result for Cousins was a breath of fresh air for a U.S. team still recovering from the gruesome injury to Paul George.

"He said he got a little scared, obviously, when you go down after we had that prior injury," said Jerry Colangelo, the managing director of USA Basketball. Cousins yelled out in distress as the practice pileup dissipated, leaving him on his back near the free-throw line on one side of the court. He was helped off the floor, and then was confined to the training table for the remaining part of the first of two practices in Chicago before Saturday night's warm-up match against Brazil.

Cousins took a few ginger steps while players were coming off the floor at the end of practice.

"Definitely scary, not just the fact that he went down, but the fact that I actually was the one who dove on him," said Davis, a Chicago native who plays for New Orleans. "I kind of feel bad and I hope he's fine because he really wants to be here. He really wants to play."

It was the first practice for the Americans since George broke his right leg during a practice game on Aug. 1 in Las Vegas.



USA head coach Mike Krzyzewski talks with injured DeMarcus Cousins after a practice of the men's U.S. National basketball team Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014, in Chicago. The U.S. team will face the Brazilian team in an exhibition game at the United Center in Chicago Saturday.

Associated Press

George had surgery the next day, and the Indiana Pacers say their two-time All-Star is expected to make a full recovery.

Colangelo has guaranteed a spot for George for the 2016 Olympics, and the rest of the national team seems to have rallied around the talented small forward. They are planning to wear a special shooting shirt for him for their games before the Cup, and several players talked about winning the World Cup for him.

"The week off that we had, after we saw what happened to Paul, it kind of calmed us down a little bit because right afterwards it was kind of devastating," Bulls point guard Derrick Rose said. "But now that he's had surgery and it seems like he's recovering, our goal is just to come out here and compete for our country."

The U.S. absorbed another big blow last week when NBA MVP Kevin Durant withdrew from the training squad. The Oklahoma City star was voted Most

Valuable Player of the world championship in 2010, leading the Americans to that title for the first time since 1994.

Durant said he "could not fulfill my responsibilities to the team from both a time and energy standpoint," joining previous withdrawals by All-Stars Kevin Love, Blake Griffin and LaMarcus Aldridge.

"It was a surprise, but Kevin is a terrific guy and a terrific USA Basketball guy and he was really despondent about not being able to play," Colangelo said. "He wanted to, but he found himself in a situation where he had no choice."

Asked to elaborate, Colangelo responded: "His contractual situation."

Durant's contract with the Thunder runs through the 2015-16 season, but he is believed to be talking to shoe companies about a new endorsement agreement. Messages were left Thursday seeking comment from Leon Rose, Durant's agent, and Nike, which has outfitted Durant for years.



Reporters and photographers wait for Derrick Rose to finish his individual workout after a practice of the men's U.S. National basketball team Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014, in Chicago.

Associated Press

U.S. Basketball: No Africa trip after Ebola outbreak

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

The U.S. national team has canceled a trip to Senegal after the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

The Americans were scheduled to interrupt their World Cup of Basketball preparations to travel to the African continent for the first time, conducting a joint clinic on Aug. 27 with the Senegal national team. They planned to tour Senegal's Goree Island and attend a reception hosted by the Senegalese government.

But USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said Friday the Americans had no choice but to call off the trip because of the risk involved with Senegal's location near countries where the outbreak has been deadly.

"We feel really badly about it, disappointed about it because I think our whole group — players, coaches, staff — were thinking it was going to be a terrific experience top to bottom," Colangelo said.

More than 1,000 people have died in West Africa in the last six months after the outbreak quickly spread to major cities in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Ebola causes a high fever, bleeding and vomiting. The virus is transmitted by contact with bodily fluids like blood, sweat, urine, diarrhea and vomit.

It has no cure or licensed treatment and has been fatal in at least 50 percent of the cases, health experts say.

"When they declare a public emergency like they did, we didn't have any other choice, disappointed as we are that we're not going to go," Colangelo said.

Colangelo said the Americans had consulted with officials from the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control. Though they don't suspect any cases in Senegal, it is just north of those countries along Africa's west coast, which he said made it an important location that served as a "gateway to West Africa."

Instead, the Americans will remain in Spain and perhaps add an extra practice before the World Cup, which begins Aug. 30 in that country. Colangelo said USA Basketball would look for a future opportunity to travel to Africa.

"We're committed to fostering the game of basketball everywhere in the world, in particular Africa and Senegal," he said.

Netflix goes for laughs with new stand-up specials

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You can have Bill Cosby in the palm of your hand. And Jim Jefferies will tickle you at your discretion.

Netflix is announcing performances by both comics and three more, set to roll out this fall. It's the latest in the original-content initiative from this subscription Internet channel.

Here's the lineup, unveiled Thursday, with each program going online at 3:01 a.m. Eastern:

— "Jim Jefferies: BARE," premiering Aug. 29. Taped at Boston's Wilbur Theatre, it finds Jefferies weighing in on diverse topics such as politics, new fatherhood, orgies and Neil Diamond. (It will join the first season of Jefferies' FX comedy series "Legit," now streaming on Netflix.)

— Chelsea Handler in her previously announced "Uganda Be Kidding Me Live" appearance, premiering Oct. 10. It's the culmination of an international stand-up tour by Handler (who exits her E! talk show later this month, headed for a new series on Netflix in 2016) as she recounts tales of her global travels and the ridiculous characters in her life.

— "Chelsea Peretti: One of the Greats" premieres Nov. 14. Originating from San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts, it's a dark but silly exploration by the "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" star showcasing her talents as an actress, stand-up comic, writer and motorcycle enthusiast.

— "Bill Cosby 77," premiering Nov. 28. Taped July 12 (Cosby's 77th birthday) at the San Francisco Jazz Center, it's an hour-plus of comedy from Cos dealing with such topics as relationships, marriage and, of course, kids.

— "Bill Burr: I'm Sorry You Feel That Way," premiering Dec. 5. Burr is onstage at Atlanta's Tabernacle exploring subjects such as how nothing ruins great sex like a rom-com and how too many childhood hugs could be the downfall of man.

"Stand-up comedy is a category of original content that we're very focused on," said Lisa Nishimura, Netflix's vice president of original documentary and comedy programming. "There's a really huge scope of types of comedy within stand-up, and we have the ability to provide that entire scope."

Going forward, Netflix expects to keep introducing stand-up specials, she said. And while other networks regularly air stand-up programs, Nishimura said Netflix has its own appeal: "Our flexibility and ubiquity of access is a really important component, specifically for comedy."

Jefferies noted that he's done specials for HBO, Showtime and FX. But he hailed the Netflix model, which presents his concert at its original length (about 77 minutes) and will keep it available to viewers for the foreseeable future.

"When you tell people you're doing a special for a cable channel, you say they're going to air it at 8 o'clock on Saturday and again at 2 in the morning on Tuesday," he explained. "But here, all you have to say is, 'It's on Netflix.' It's easier."

"People can watch it over and over again," he pointed out, then added with a laugh, "and fast forward through the bits they don't like."

With the Cosby program, Netflix is staging a hasty encore for the comedy legend, who made a celebrated return to TV stand-up after 30 years last fall with his "Far From Finished" special on Comedy Central.

Cosby said he's even more pleased with his new special. For one thing, there will be no commercial breaks, allowing the flow of his performance to be uninterrupted.

In a recent conversation, he couldn't help marveling at the pace of technology that will soon deliver him anytime, on demand, from Netflix servers to countless consumer devices. When Cosby burst on the scene



This Nov. 18, 2013 photo shows actor-comedian Bill Cosby in New York.

Associated Press

a half-century ago, he won widespread exposure thanks to broadcast television and his comedy LPs. And now?

"People can get a plug-in

and put my show on their huge flat-screen TVs," he said, "while other people are watching on their i-This and i-That."

When "Bill Cosby 77" goes

online, he said with a chuckle, "You will have Bill Cosby in the palm of your hand." Another chuckle. "Just as he has YOU in the palm of HIS hand."

Daughter of Robin Williams faced online abuse

MARK KENNEDY

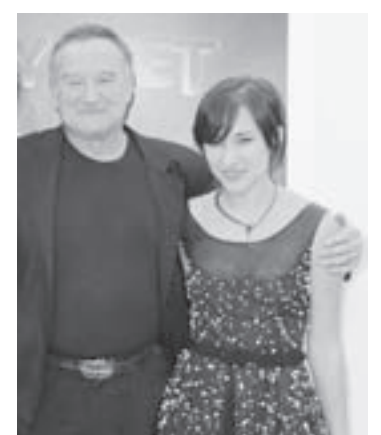
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Robin Williams' daughter has abandoned her online social media accounts in disgust following what she called "cruel and unnecessary" messages following her father's death, a move that has prompted Twitter to explore how it handles such situations.

Zelda Williams, 25, wrote that she was stepping away from her Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram accounts "for a good long time, maybe forever."

The move came after at least two users upset the grieving actress by sending disturbing images and verbal attacks. In one of her last tweets on Tuesday night, Williams asked fellow users to report her alleged tormentors to Twitter managers. "I'm shaking," she wrote. One of the images was a Photoshopped image of Robin Williams pur-

porting to be his corpse. Well-wishers and fans online quickly rallied to Zelda Williams' defense, and the accounts of both alleged bullies were suspended by Wednesday. Facebook, which also owns Instagram, said the photo violated its policy and was "being actively flagged and removed across both platforms as it pops up." "We have suspended a number of accounts related to this issue for violating our rules and we are in the process of evaluating how we can further improve our policies to better handle tragic situations like this one. This includes expanding our policies regarding self-harm and private information, and improving support for family members of deceased users."

Last summer, Twitter introduced a one-click button to report abuse and updated its rules to clarify that it will not tolerate abusive



This Nov. 13, 2011 file photo shows actor Robin Williams, left, and his daughter, Zelda at the premiere of "Happy Feet Two" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

behavior. Zelda Williams also alluded on Instagram to users being hateful following her father's suicide: "In this difficult time, please try to be respectful of the accounts of myself, my family and my friends. Mining our accounts for photos of dad, or judging me on the number of them is cruel and unnecessary."

Wall Street slumps on geopolitical turmoil

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Renewed fighting in Ukraine rattled markets on Friday. Reports that Ukrainian forc-

it's understandable that traders dropped stocks in response to the flare-up. "Anyone who doesn't want to lose their job over the weekend sells first and

cent, to 16,662.91, while the Nasdaq composite gained 11.93 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,464.93. Mark Luschini, chief investment strategist at Janney Montgomery

Luschini said. The news crossed at mid-morning Eastern time that a column of Russian armored carriers had crossed into Ukraine late Thursday.

Ukraine claimed that its artillery fire destroyed most of the vehicles, but Russia denied that it happened.

The reports upended major European markets, turning gains into losses. Germany's DAX dropped 1.4 percent, after climbing 1.1 percent earlier. France's CAC 40 lost 0.7 percent.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note plunged as low as 2.30 percent, the lowest since June 2013, as traders seeking safety shifted money into U.S. government bonds. In late afternoon trading the yield climbed back to 2.34 percent, still down from 2.40 percent late Thursday.

Among companies in the news, Monster Beverage soared 30 percent after Coca-Cola announced plans to pay \$2 billion for a stake in the maker of caffeinated drinks.

The deal comes as Coca-Cola's flagship soda business is flagging and "energy drinks" have become popular. Monster jumped \$21.84 to \$93.49. Supervalu, a grocery store chain, said hackers gained access to its computer network for handling credit-card transactions. □

Derivatives: Fight brewing for changes

PETER EAVIS

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Tensions are building in an enormous market that nearly brought Wall Street to its knees in 2008.

Financial regulators are pushing for an arcane but crucial modification to the contracts that stand behind the \$700 trillion global market for derivatives. The change is part of the regulators' efforts to avoid the sort of systemic chaos that occurred after Lehman Bros. crashed.

Large banks and investment firms, however, are concerned that the adjustment - which would affect how trades are treated when a bank fails - could weaken their legal rights and may even make the market for derivatives riskier. While Wall Street is largely resigned to the regulators' ultimately getting their way, it is nevertheless pressing for measures seen as protections in return.

"It will be an incredibly significant change," said John F. Simonson, a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers who covers financial regulation. "The derivatives books of the largest dealers today are considerably larger than Lehman's."

The International Swaps and Derivatives Association, representing banks and investors, is negotiating with global regulators to try to reach an agreement by the time the Group of 20 nations meets in Australia in November.

Derivatives are financial instruments that allow banks and other investors to bet on interest rates, securities prices and the creditworthiness of countries and companies.

Authorities are concerned that derivatives still have the power to make the failure of a large bank difficult for regulators to control. Derivatives pose this threat because they allow the trading partners of a failed bank to immediately terminate their trades, often placing them ahead of other creditors. □



Trader Mark Muller, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Renewed fighting in Ukraine rattled markets on Friday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

es attacked Russian military vehicles that had crossed the border knocked stock markets down in the afternoon and sent traders into the safety of U.S. government bonds.

By the end of the day, the Standard & Poor's 500 index was back to where it started as investors realized that a wider conflict wasn't underway. John Canally, the chief economic strategist at LPL Financial, said

asks questions later," he said. Canally suspects the dispute between Russia and Ukraine will likely follow the pattern of recent months. Worrying headlines will be followed by soothing speeches. "We've been here before," he said.

The S&P 500 index fell 0.12 of a point to 1,955.06. It ended the week with a gain of 1.2 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 50.67, or 0.3 per-

cent, said that one reason world events seem to be driving trading recently is that there's a lack of anything else for traders to focus on. All but a handful of big companies have turned in second-quarter results already, and no major economic reports came out this week. "For the moment, geopolitical events seem to hold the interest of the few people at their desks in mid-August,"

Alibaba discovers suspicious accounting at film unit

NEIL GOUGH

© 2014 New York Times

HONG KONG - Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant, said Friday that it had discovered suspicious accounting at a Hong Kong film company that it paid about \$800 million just two months ago to control.

The disclosure may raise concerns that Alibaba, which is preparing what may be the biggest initial public offering in U.S. history, could be biting off more than it can chew in a spree of acquisitions. The film company, Alibaba Pictures Group, formerly ChinaVision Media Group, said Friday that it had discovered

"possible noncompliant accounting treatments" involving insufficient provision for impairments on assets, or write-downs, which were not identified. The company added that it would miss an Aug. 31 deadline to release its earnings for the first six months of the year and that its shares would be suspended from trading until its audit committee could complete an inquiry.

The accounting issues at Alibaba Pictures may lead to questions about whether Alibaba, which analysts expect could raise as much as \$20 billion in a New York IPO as early as next month, has been carrying out suf-

ficient due diligence as it vets potential takeover targets. A deal in June to pay nearly \$200 million for a 50 percent stake in Guangzhou Evergrande F.C., a Chinese soccer team, was wrapped up in a matter of days after Alibaba's executive chairman, Jack Ma, agreed to the investment while having drinks with Evergrande's owner, a billionaire real estate developer. Alibaba agreed in March to purchase 60 percent of ChinaVision, which produces and distributes films and television programs in China, for 6.24 billion Hong Kong dollars, or \$804 million at the time. The deal

was completed in June. Alibaba renamed the company Alibaba Pictures and installed its own slate of directors. Last month, Alibaba Pictures issued a profit warning, saying that because of a drop in revenue, it expected to book a substantial loss in the first six months of this year, compared with a profit of \$18 million in the same period in 2013.

Alibaba said it "fully supports the new management of Ali Pictures as they thoroughly review and rectify the possible financial noncompliance they have found with the former ChinaVision." □

Coca-Cola buys stake in Monster Beverage

DAVID GELLES

© 2014 New York Times

For years now, analysts have suggested that the Coca-Cola Co. acquire Monster Beverage, the energy drink company. Access to the fast-growing market for the highly caffeinated beverages would help Coca-Cola offset the slowing growth of soda sales and connect with a younger generation of consumers, they said. Two years ago, the companies almost struck a deal, but could not agree on terms.

Now, Coca-Cola has finally made its move. This week it announced that it had acquired a 16.7 percent stake in Monster for \$2.15 billion.

The deal unites the biggest soda maker in the world with the largest energy drink brand in the United States. "It's a positive and smart move by both companies," said John Sicher, editor of Beverage Digest. "It will strengthen Coke and the Coke system, and the Coke system will strengthen Monster."

Investors in each company cheered the deal. Monster stock was up more than 20 percent in after-hours trading, while Coca-Cola shares rose more than 1 percent. "We're impressed with Monster's performance today and are confident in Monster's ability to perform over the long term," Muhtar Kent, Coca-Cola's chief executive and chairman, said in a conference call.

The deal stipulates that Coca-Cola can increase its stake in Monster to 25 percent through purchases on the open market, or through a negotiated transaction with the company. But Coca-Cola is prohibited from increasing its stake beyond 25 percent for four years without Monster's approval.

Asked if Coca-Cola discussed acquiring all of Monster, Kent said, "That's not really relevant right now."

Rodney C. Sacks, chief executive of Monster, said: "We've prided ourselves on being independent. We're still having fun, and we're growing the brand."

The equity investment is accompanied by a series of business deals between the companies, including the swapping of some brands, new partnerships, and the addition of board seats at Monster.

In a bid to let Monster focus on energy drinks, Coca-Cola will transfer ownership of its energy drink brands - NOS, Full Throttle, Burn, Mother, Play and Power Play and Relentless - to Monster. In return, Monster will transfer its nonenergy drinks brands - Hansen's Natural Sodas, Peace Tea, Hubert's Lemonade and Hansen's Juice Products - to Coca-Cola. Monster is issuing new shares to accommodate Coca-Cola's investment, and will allow Coca-Cola to appoint two new members to the company's board. The deal also involves deeper ties between the companies. Coca-Cola will take on some Monster distribution relationships now handled by other partners, and the companies will cooperate on international expansion. A major rationale for the deal was Coca-Cola's desire to find a replacement for carbonated soft drink sales. Overall soda sales fell 3 percent last year, according to Beverage Digest, while energy drink sales increased by more than 4 percent.

"Carbonated soft drinks are in decline, and that's the largest part of Coke's portfolio," Sicher said. "This gives them added distribution of one of the parts of the beverage business that is still growing, at least modestly."

This is the second major investment Coca-Cola has made this year. In January, it acquired a 10 percent stake in the coffee company Keurig Green Mountain for about \$1.25 billion, and is working with the company to develop a machine that will let consumers make soda. It later increased its stake in Keurig to 16 percent. □

Traders profit by placing bets on an overworked power grid

JULIE CRESWELL

ROBERT GEBELOFF

© 2014 New York Times

PORT JEFFERSON, N.Y. - By 10 a.m. the heat was closing in on the North Shore of Long Island. But 300 miles down the seaboard, at an obscure investment company near Washington, the forecast pointed to something else: profit.

As the temperatures climbed toward the 90s here and air-conditioners turned on, the electric grid struggled to meet the demand. By midafternoon, the wholesale price of electricity had jumped nearly 550 percent.

What no one here knew that day, May 30, 2013, was that the investment company, DC Energy, was reaping rewards from the swelter. Within 48 hours the firm, based in Vienna, Virginia, had made more than \$1.5 million by cashing in on so-called congestion contracts, complex financial instruments that gain value when the grid becomes overburdened, according to an analysis of trading data by The New York Times.

Those profits are a small fraction of the fortune that traders at DC Energy and elsewhere have pocketed because of maneuvers involving the nation's congested grid. Across the nation, investment funds and major banks are wagering billions on similar trades as

they chase profits in an arcane arena that rarely attracts attention.

Congestion occurs when demand for electricity outstrips the immediate supply, sending prices higher as the grid strains to deliver power from distant and of-

have stepped in, siphoning off much of the money.

The contracts have attracted big money: More than \$2 billion has been invested nationwide in the monthly auctions for contracts since 2011, according to Platts, a trade publication.



William Hogan a professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and outspoken critic of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's recent manipulation investigations, on campus in Cambridge, Mass.

(Katherine Taylor/The New York Times)

ten more expensive locations to meet the demand. To help offset the higher costs, regional grid operators auction off congestion contracts. When electricity prices spike, contract holders collect the difference in prices between points from the grid operators. If the congestion moves in the opposite direction, holders pay the operators.

The contracts were intended to protect the electricity producers, utilities and industries that need to buy power. But Wall Street banks and other investors

Trading firms like DC Energy say they ultimately benefit consumers by bearing financial risks and fostering competition.

But Frank A. Wolak, an economics professor at Stanford University who studies commodities, said the congestion markets created perverse incentives because profits rise when grid congestion becomes worse. "If traders are making money, then consumers are paying more," Wolak said. "The money that these guys are making has to come from somewhere." □

US July producer prices rise 0.1%

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Falling gasoline costs lowered the prices that U.S. companies received for their goods and services last month, keeping overall inflation in check.

The producer price index rose 0.1 percent in July, following a 0.4 percent gain in June, the Labor Department said Friday. The index measures the cost of goods and services before they reach the consumer.

Wholesale gas prices fell 2.1 percent, after jumping 6.4 percent in June. The cost of pharmaceuticals, pickup trucks and

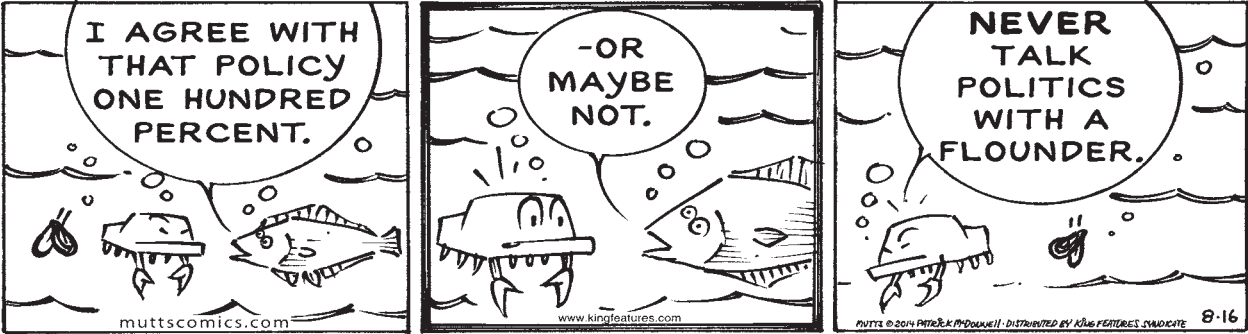
rail and truck shipping services rose, while the cost of vegetables, jewelry and natural gas fell. Excluding the volatile categories of food, energy and retailer and wholesaler profit margins, prices moved up 0.2 percent. In the past 12 months, producer prices have risen just 1.7 percent, slightly below the Federal Reserve's target. Wholesale prices jumped 0.5 percent in April, led by a big increase in food costs. That raised concerns among some economists that inflation could accelerate. But price changes since then have been mostly tame. Consumer prices have

tended to track the costs for producers. They rose 0.3 percent in June, mostly because of higher pump prices. Consumer prices rose 2.1 percent in June compared with the year prior.

The Fed targets inflation at about 2 percent as a guard against deflation, which could drag down wages and spark another recession. At the same time, the Fed wants to avoid excessive inflation and protect consumers and the purchasing power of the dollar.

Employers have stepped up hiring this year and consumers are more confident in the economy. □

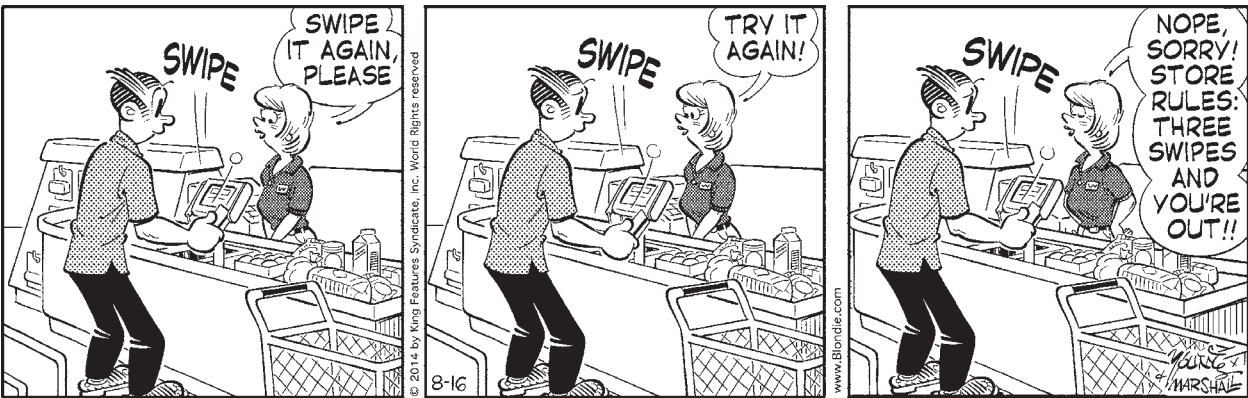
Mutts



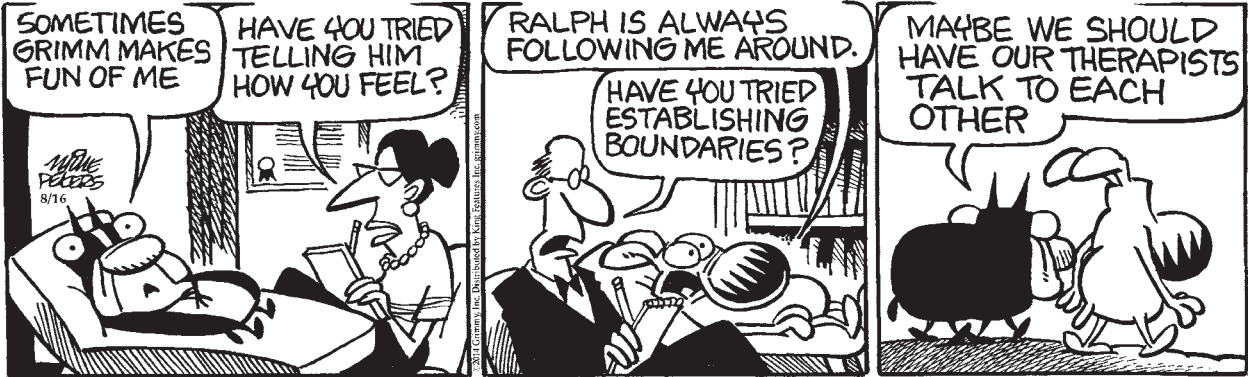
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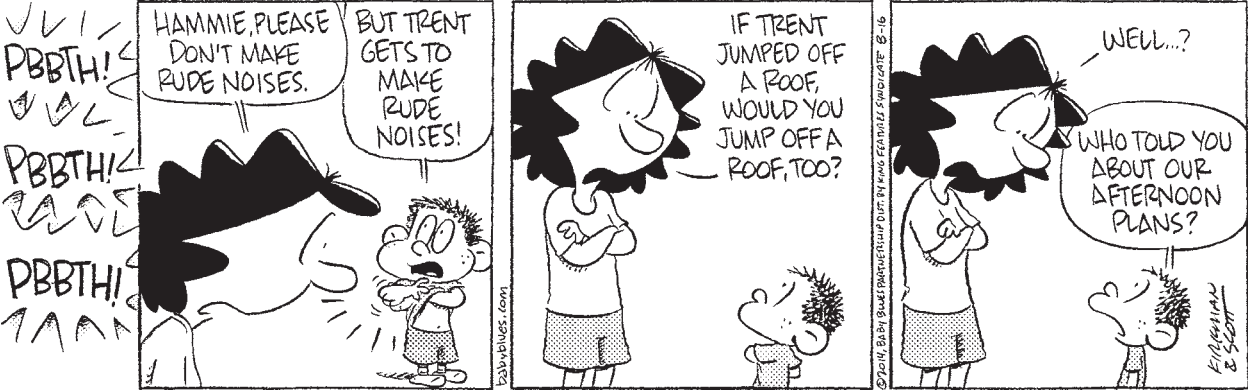
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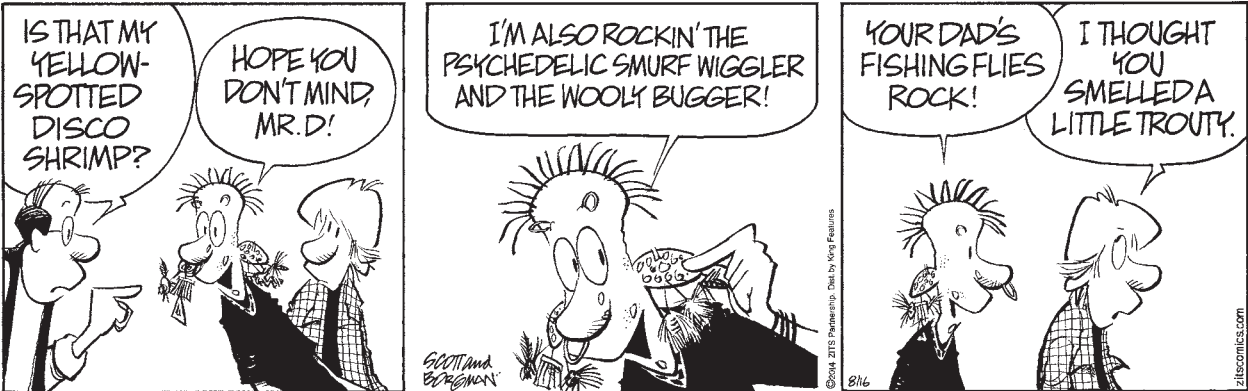
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4		8	6			5	
9						8		7
	3							
			6		3			1
4				1				2
6			2		9			
							7	
7		1						8
	2			3	4		1	

Difficulty Level
★★★★
8/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

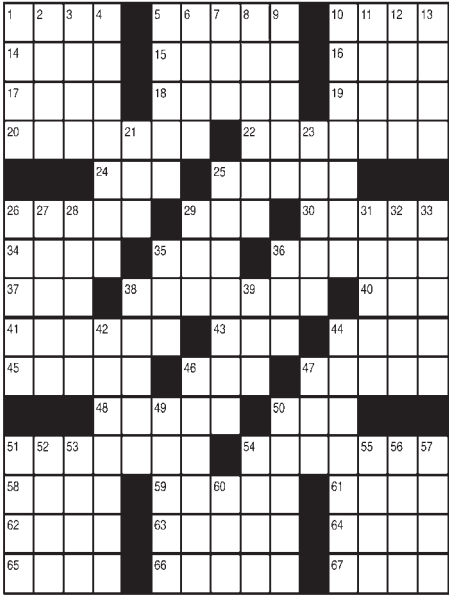
7	5	3	6	8	9	2	4	1
2	1	9	4	3	7	5	8	6
8	4	6	5	1	2	9	7	3
4	3	7	2	9	1	8	6	5
6	2	8	7	4	5	1	3	9
5	9	1	8	6	3	4	2	7
3	7	5	9	2	8	6	1	4
1	6	2	3	5	4	7	9	8
9	8	4	1	7	6	3	5	2

ACROSS

- 1 Split __; hair problem
5 __ oneself; prepare for bad news
10 Quarrel
14 Cold weather garment
15 Rowed
16 Apiece
17 Sharpen
18 Use up
19 Delight
20 Burdensome
22 Cat variety
24 Religious sister
25 Line of people
26 Happen again
29 Public transport
30 Pesky insects
34 Test
35 Ocean
36 Surgical stitch
37 Lung contents
38 Ogre
40 VP __ Quayle
41 Actress __
43 Go quickly
44 Facial twitches
45 Hayes or Hunt
46 Lion's lair
47 Out of money
48 Misplaces
50 Pod veggie
51 Napoleon or Hirohito
54 Bits of fabric sewn in to cover holes
58 Crocheter's purchase
59 VP Joe __
61 Long sandwich
62 Way out
63 King's decree
64 British noble
65 Lowers the lights
66 Has a strong odor
67 Too

DOWN

- 1 Resound
2 Lunchtime



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews
8/16/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

EMOTE	BRAD	MAMA
GALES	OILY	AGES
GREAT	OPEN	TERN
SEGMENTS	AVENGE	
EVAS	SMARTER	
TANDEM	THORN	
OBI	ZEBRA	YACHT
GULP	DAIRY	LUAU
STEAL	LAKES	RIB
LIBEL	LINERS	
NEMESIS	FLEE	
EVENTS	PASSWORD	
PANE	SWAB	TEHEE
ADDS	EARL	ASIAN
LESS	TYKE	STORY

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- 35 Scrubber's pad
36 Notice
38 Trivial
39 Cheap metal
42 Gives in
44 Windpipe
46 Scorn
47 Wager
49 Not smashed
50 Britches
51 Watched
52 Long skirt
53 Formally proper
54 Actor Gregory
55 Get well
56 Goofs
57 Song for one
60 Pass away

Ebola may leave 1 million in need of food help

BOUBACAR DIALLO
SARAH DILORENZO
Associated Press

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP) — The deadly Ebola virus that has killed more than 1,000 in West Africa is disrupting the flow of goods, forcing

struggle to feed themselves in the best of times, observers say. While none of the regulations restricts the movement of basic necessities, fear and inconvenience are disrupting supplies. Some 1 million people

food agency has already provided aid for months to several thousand people, including those in isolation wards and their families. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which have imposed some internal restrictions on travel, are becoming more isolated as regional airlines suspend flights to the three countries. Major international airlines are still flying in, but the U.N. will start flights for humanitarian workers on Saturday to ensure aid operations aren't interrupted. In the coming weeks, they will also ferry staff to remote areas by helicopter.

Guinea is doing vigorous health checks on people moving into and out of infected areas in the country's southeast, where the outbreak was first identified in March. Products from these forested areas, which used to fill many markets of the capital of Conakry, are now shunned.

Idrissa Bah, a truck driver who customarily made the 370-mile (600-kilometer) trip from the forest region to the capital several times a month, has stayed put for three months because no one wants food from the southeast anymore, even though transmission through food is very unlikely. Daniel Bausch, who runs the virology and emerging infections department at the U.S. Naval Medical Research unit in Lima, Peru, said since only people with symptoms are infectious, it's unlikely they would be handling food. □



A trader poses for a photograph at her food stall in the city of Freetown, Sierra Leone, Friday, Aug. 15, 2014. The deadly Ebola virus that has killed more than 1,000 in West Africa is disrupting the flow of goods, forcing the United Nations to plan food convoys for up to a million people as hunger threatens the largely impoverished area.

(AP Photo/ Michael Duff)

the United Nations to plan food convoys for up to a million people as hunger threatens the largely impoverished area.

Amid roadblocks manned by troops and pervasive fear among the population of the dreaded disease, the worst-ever outbreak of Ebola is increasingly impacting the food supply in three countries.

The impacts are evident in Guinea's capital of Conakry, where fruit and vegetables no longer arrive from the country's breadbasket. In Sierra Leone and Liberia, several markets have been shut down. The price of rice and other staples is soaring in areas under Ebola quarantine.

Hunters of bushmeat, which can carry the Ebola virus, have lost their livelihoods, and farmers in some areas have been cut off from their fields. Price-gouging hurts people who

in isolated areas might need food assistance in the coming months, according to the U.N. World Food Program, which is preparing a regional emergency operation to bring food by convoy to the needy. The three-month operation can be extended.

The World Health Organization warned this week that the outbreak could last for another several months and that its size may be vastly underestimated.

"It's a health crisis, but it has impacted food security," WFP spokeswoman Fabienne Pompey said. The U.N.

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Specks returned from space may be alien visitors

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

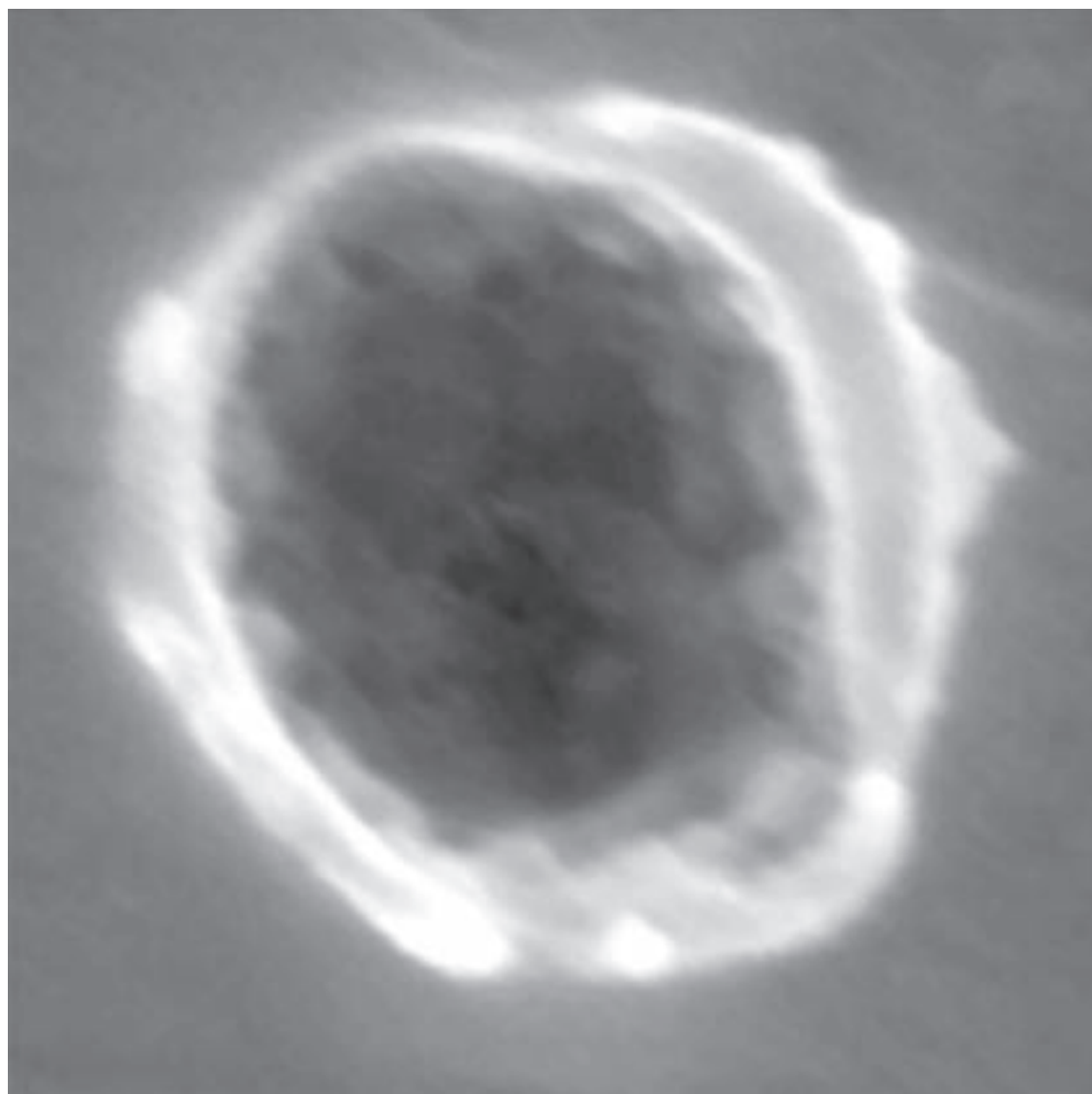
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) —

There may be itsy-bitsy aliens among us. Scientists say seven microscopic particles collected by NASA's comet-chasing spacecraft, Stardust, appear to have originated outside our solar system. If confirmed, this would be the world's first sampling of contemporary interstellar dust.

"They are very precious particles," the team leader, physicist Andrew Westphal of the University of California, Berkeley, said in a statement Thursday.

The dust collectors were exposed to what is believed to be the interstellar dust stream in the early 2000s and returned to Earth in 2006. Since then, dozens of scientists worldwide led by Westphal have examined scans of the collection panels to zero in on the particles. The team was assisted by 30,000 citizen-scientists, dubbed Dusters, who reviewed more than 1 million images in search of elusive tracks made by incoming particles.

The findings were pub-



This undated image provided by the journal Science via Stardust shows the view of a dust particle impact on Al foil collector.

Associated Press

lished Thursday in the journal Science.

Westphal said the suspected interstellar particles are surprisingly di-

verse. Some are fluffy like snowflakes.

A few particles splatted a little when they hit the collection panels

because of their speed and the fact that some ended up hitting the aluminum foils between the softer aerogel tiles meant

to capture the grains. In fact, one particle believed to be following the flow of interstellar wind was vaporized because it was going so fast — an estimated 10 miles per second.

The dust is considered young by cosmic standards: less than 50 million to 100 million years old, the life expectancy of interstellar dust.

Westphal said additional testing is needed before concluding these seven specks are truly from outside our solar system. And there may be more: Roughly half the dust-collection panels have yet to be scanned. The physicist expects to find no more than a dozen interstellar dust specks in all, however, a tiny fraction of the amount of comet matter gathered by Stardust.

More than 50 grains embedded in the Stardust collectors were deemed to be debris from the spacecraft itself.

NASA launched Stardust in 1999 to collect debris from Comet Wild-2. The Stardust capsule parachuted back to Earth, landing in the Utah desert seven years later. □

Space station supply ship exits, now packing trash

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) —

A commercial cargo ship has ended its month-long space station visit.

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station released the Cygnus supply ship, now full of trash for

disposal early Friday. They parted company 260 miles (420 kilometers) above Africa's southwest coast.

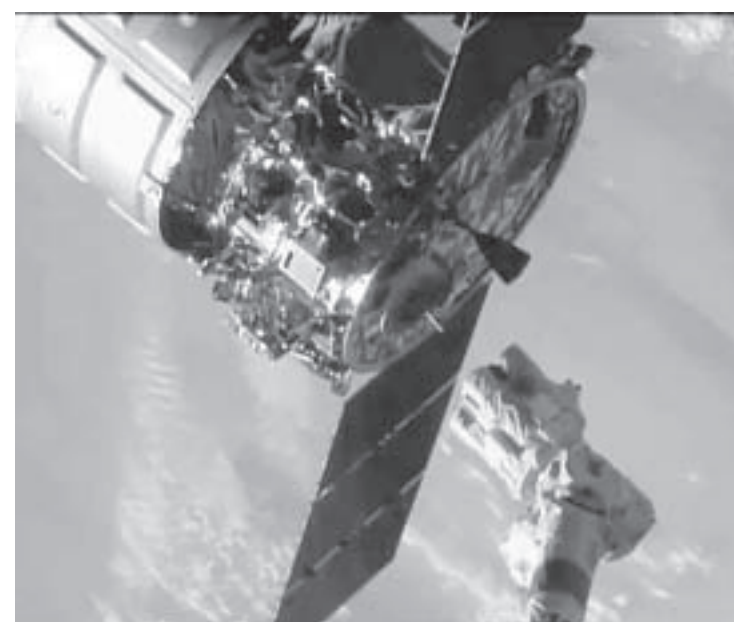
Orbital Sciences Corp. launched the Cygnus from Virginia in mid-July under a NASA contract. The unmanned craft hauled more than 3,000 pounds (1,400 kilograms) of crucial car-

go to the orbiting outpost. Now it's loaded with rubbish, some 3,500 pounds' (1,600 kilograms) worth.

"All the best wishes," German spaceman Alexander Gerst radioed to the company's flight controllers.

On Sunday, the Virginia-based Orbital Sciences will steer the craft down through the atmosphere to burn up. The six space station astronauts will attempt to record the fiery re-entry for engineering analysis. The same documentation will be done when a European supply ship departs early next year. That ship, launched from French Guiana, delivered its shipment just a few days ago.

NASA and its international partners — Russia, Europe,



This TV image provided by NASA-TV shows the Orbital Sciences Cygnus resupply cargo vehicle being released from the robotic arm on the International Space Station early Friday morning Aug. 15, 2014 near the southwest coast of Africa.

Associated Press

Japan and Canada — want to learn as much about atmospheric re-entry as possible to prepare for the space station's eventual demise in the decade or two ahead.

Orbital Sciences Corp. is one of two U.S. companies hired by NASA to deliver space station goods. The California-based SpaceX will make its next supply run next month. □



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In this Jan. 13, 2012 file photo, former Vice President Al Gore, Current TV Chairman and Co-Founder, participates in the Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour in Pasadena, Calif. Associated Press

Al Gore sues Al Jazeera America for unpaid millions

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former Vice President Al Gore is suing Al Jazeera America, saying the news network is withholding tens of millions of dollars that it owes for buying Current TV from him and other shareholders for \$500 million last year. David Boies, Gore's attorney, said in a statement that Al Jazeera America "wants to give itself a discount on the purchase price that was agreed to nearly two years ago." He said the suit was filed in Delaware Court of Chancery on Friday. Al Jazeera America didn't immediately respond to a

request for comment. The Qatar-owned news channel took over Current TV's signal last August and hired a slew of U.S. TV news veterans like Soledad O'Brien and John Seigenthaler. It is available in nearly 60 million U.S. homes. Gore and co-founder and former Current TV CEO Joel Hyatt each had 20 percent stakes in Current, while Comcast Corp. had less than a 10 percent stake. Another major investor in Current TV was supermarket magnate and entertainment industry investor Ron Burkle. □

Kellan Lutz says Robin Williams was role model

JOHN CARUCCI Associated Press NEW YORK (AP) — "Twilight" star Kellan Lutz teared up when he talked about the death of Robin Williams, saying he saw the actor-comedian as a model for how to be a dad. The 29-year-old actor, who counts Williams' daughter Zelda as a friend, called Williams' death "crushing." "I love my dad, (but) kind of grew up with my mom and always wanted a father figure there, and I'm a huge fan of his movies and always just wished he was my dad," an emotional Lutz said Thursday. He was

promoting his latest film, "The Expendables 3." Lutz said he grew up watching Williams' movies, and always admired "the kind of person he portrayed," so he thought, "It would be fun to have that kind of dad." Lutz hopes to carry that over when he starts his own family someday. "I want to be that dad to my kids. I want to be the 'Patch Adams,' the 'Jumanji,' the 'Mrs. Doubtfire,' 'Good Will Hunting.'" Williams died Monday in his Northern California home. Authorities said he committed suicide. □

Daniel Radcliffe finds interest in actors 'weird'

SIAN WATSON Associated Press LONDON (AP) — Daniel Radcliffe says he finds the concept of celebrity and the level of interest in the trivia of actors' lives "weird." While promoting his first romantic comedy — "What If," directed by Michael Dowse — the 25-year-old British star was keen to keep the conversation away from his own love life. Radcliffe is rumored to be dating his "Kill your Darlings" co-star Erin Darke. "People ask me about my relationship and I try to give a little away as possible," Radcliffe explained. "People are dying in the world, give time to that." And yet despite his best efforts to keep quiet about his personal life, the former Harry Potter star still finds himself tabloid fodder. "That gets turned into a story in itself," he said. "Oh, you've been really open about this." "No, I haven't. I was just, like, trying to keep my mouth shut." Radcliffe was hap-



In this file photo taken Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, British actor Daniel Radcliffe reacts, as he arrives on the red carpet for the UK premiere of What If, at the Odeon West End in central London. Associated Press

py, however, to talk about his career choices post-Harry Potter. Since leaving the boy wizard behind him, he has sought out challenging roles and embraced on-screen nudity. Whether portraying beat poet Allen Ginsberg in "Kill your Darlings," or skinny-dipping in "What If," Radcliffe joked that he wasn't "intentionally" seeking out roles in which he can appear naked.

Yet it all comes naturally now after a stint in "Equus" back in 2007 where he stood in the nude on stage night after night. "Doing it on stage when I was 17 kind of makes you go 'Meh' about anything else after that," he explained. "What If" stars Radcliffe pining for his character's best friend, played by actress Zoe Kazan. It opens Wednesday in the U.K. □

Pete Capaldi gets New York welcome at 'Who' premiere

ALICIA RANCILIO Associated Press NEW YORK (AP) — Peter Capaldi knew he was in New York on Thursday the minute he stepped out of a classic yellow cab that drove him to the premiere of "Doctor Who." "Someone just shouted at me from the crowd, 'The first Italian Doctor!'" he said, laughing. Capaldi is the 12th actor to play the Doctor in six decades. At 56, he is also the oldest since the first, William Hartnell. Show runner Steven Moffat is not concerned that younger viewers will be turned off by the elder time-and-space traveling Time Lord. "Is that why Santa Claus never worked as an old man and kids didn't like him?" he cracked. "Look, I

hate to tell you this, but to kids, (previous 31-year-old Doctor) Matt Smith was ancient, right? I mean we're all ancient to them so (I'm) not remotely (worried.)" Moffat also is not dwelling on a recent online leak of scripts for several upcoming episodes. "There's nothing we can do about it. We were a bit depressed about it, especially me — but what can you do," he said with a shrug. Although the Doctor has changed, his companion has not. Jenna Coleman returns as Clara Oswald, who also was Smith's sidekick. "They're kind of deeply addicted and bound to each other despite how much they annoy each other," Coleman explained of her character's relationship to the new Doctor. Capaldi added: "I think

Clara's the only person that can tell the Doctor what to do and he's very bonded to her and has a very deep affection for her, so although she drives him crazy sometimes, he can't stop inviting her to travel with him." "Doctor Who" is a science fiction series in which the Doctor travels in the Tardis, a time machine shaped like an old-fashioned British police telephone booth. The show has remained popular over the years because of its flexibility. The Doctor is able to regenerate into new bodies and transport to any point in space or time. Capaldi and Coleman have been on a world tour of seven cities across five continents in 12 days to promote the new season premiering Aug. 23 on BBC America. □

Broadway stars sleep rough to help homeless

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The kids at the Covenant House homeless shelter are always looking for somebody to lean on. They got it one summer night last year, along with a lullaby sung by some of Broadway's best.

More than 50 Broadway artists broke into a serenade of "Lean On Me" while spending the night on the street outside the Manhattan shelter in solidarity with the 350 homeless youth living inside.

"Of course we had to break into song when you put a bunch of us together. We can't not sing," said Rory O'Malley, the Tony Award-nominated former star of "The Book of Mormon." The windows lit up and the kids inside soon joined them in song.

"That's the power of music and the power of art. We were able to tell them that we're here for them, and it was an awesome, awesome moment, something that I'll always remember." On Sunday, some 70 Broadway figures will join the second Sleep Out to raise money to provide food, clothing and shelter for homeless youth. Participants have already pulled in more than \$177,000 as of Friday morning, beating last year's fundraising total



In this May 31, 2011 file photo, actor Rory O'Malley from the Broadway musical "The Book of Mormon" poses for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

of \$136,000.

"It gets kids thinking, 'Maybe I'm not broken,'" said Kevin Ryan, president and CEO of Covenant House International. "It lifts kids up thinking that all these people who don't even know them think enough about them to spend the night on concrete."

The event has been spearheaded by two Broadway veterans — Capathia Jenkins, a star of "Newsies," and Stephanie J. Block, who has appeared in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"

and "9 to 5."

Participants on Sunday will be introduced to the homeless youth — many single mothers and others kicked out for being gay — and then break up into groups to share stories and answer questions from stage stars.

"The money is essential to the work we do, but that alone is oxygen for our kids," said Ryan. "They're helium for kids' dreams. They lift young people up and make them believe that they can rise up and

do anything."

Then, when the night winds down, the Broadway folk will be handed a piece of cardboard and a sleeping bag and try to sleep outside the Covenant House building, on the corner of 41st Street and 10th Avenue.

"This is not a replication of homelessness," Ryan stressed. "It is just a single night of solidarity, lifting up the dignity of homeless kids."

This year's event has attracted about 70 participants who are soliciting donations to reach their individual goals. There are also teams from "The Lion King," "The Book of Mormon," "Les Miserables" and "Newsies."

The group includes a returning Denis O'Hare of "True Blood;" Kyle Scatliffe, who plays Enjolras in "Les Miserables" Tony-nominated Adriane Lenox from "After Midnight"; a returning Caissie Levy, who stars as Fantine in "Les Miserables"; director and choreographer Jeff Calhoun; playwright David Henry Hwang; Elizabeth A. Davis, a Tony nominee for "Once"; Tony winner Chuck Cooper; and Thomas Schumacher, president of Disney Theatrical Productions.

Newly crowned six-time Tony winner Audra McDonald won't be free Sun-

day but has pledged to sleep outside on a different night and is hoping to raise \$10,000 with such prizes as getting her to record a voicemail greeting or a video of her singing happy birthday.

O'Malley will be there, too, even though he figures he only got about 45 minutes of sleep last year between the rumble of trucks going in and out of the Lincoln Tunnel. He has kept in touch with one of the kids he met, meeting over coffee and offering advice.

But O'Malley, whose new show "Partners" just premiered on FX, admits he was anxious in the days leading up to last year's event. Even though his safety was secure, he started to worry about where he'd sleep and what he'd eat.

"As the date got closer I thought, 'My God, this is one night I'm worried about! One night,'" he said. "We're not putting ourselves out there in the same way these homeless kids are having to put themselves out there on the street every single night."

As for any spontaneous singing, he wishes that could be duplicated this year: "I'm hoping that it happens again. Who knows what we'll break out from our repertoire?" □



In this photo taken on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014, production assistant Adrien Noriega holds a reflector before a film shoot outside the Department of Water and Power headquarters in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

California moves to keep film production at home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hoping to keep film production in California, lawmakers have moved to quadruple tax subsidies for location shoots.

The state Senate Appropriations Committee approved a bill Thursday that would boost total subsidies to \$400 million a year, the Los Angeles Times reported. The vote came after months of lobbying by a coalition of entertainment industry unions, studio representatives and Los Angeles city officials, including

Mayor Eric Garcetti.

The measure must still be approved by the full Senate and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

But supporters say they are confident it will clear the remaining hurdles, saying there is widespread recognition that California is losing one of its signature homegrown industries to other states.

"There is no question this will make a difference," said Bill Mechanic, a veteran film producer and former chief executive of Fox

Filmed Entertainment.

The legislation also would eliminate a controversial system in which film and TV productions win tax credits based on a lottery system, regardless of the economic effect of the production, the Times said.

Feature film production in Los Angeles County has fallen by half since 1996, and the region's share of TV pilot production has fallen 73 percent since its peak in 2007, according to statistics compiled by Film L.A. Inc. □

Finding Your Comfort Food



MARK BITTMAN
© 2014 New York Times

"What," people ask me, "do you cook when you're not working?" The answer is pretty consistent: "pasta and fish and a vegetable, or pasta and salad and a vegetable, or salad and fish and a vegetable, or pasta and salad and fish and a vegetable." There are exceptions, of course, but there's a comfort level here and it's been this way for a long time, through different kitchens and domestic arrangements. Here's the thing: In my professional life of finding, replicating, sometimes even "creating" recipes, my palate is up for anything. But when the work hat comes off, I fall into old and completely beloved habits.

The pasta-salad-fish-veg thing began in the '80s, when I had my first real gardens. In summer and fall, I would make a daily bastardized ratatouille and finish it by putting a piece of fish on top, then steaming that. Sometimes there was pasta underneath. Usually there was a salad. Occasionally there was bread, though now it seems superfluous. That set the pattern.

And I come by the pattern, if not the ingredients, quite honestly. My mother's comfort zone wasn't dissimilar while my sister and I were growing up in New York City in the 1950s and '60s. We usually started with a salad doused with Wish-Bone, though sometimes that was preceded by a slice of melon (often ripe, oddly enough; she has a knack for determining that), a half grapefruit on which sugar was tolerated, or canned fruit packed in sugar syrup. This was followed, almost always, by a piece of broiled meat (or chicken or, very, very rarely, fish), potatoes (most often mashed, though my mother made superior French fries), and a canned vegetable like green peas or (even worse) green beans.

The quality of the ingredients was occasionally better, but sometimes worse. Relying on memory is tricky, of course, but when I grew up they were still raising pigs in Secaucus; potatoes came from Long Island, onions from the "black dirt" area of upstate New York. There were real bakeries - the kind that are making a comeback - and stores specializing in fruits and vegetables, so in the summer the tomatoes and

corn came from Jersey farms.

That said, the lettuce was almost always iceberg. Romaine was exotic and kale and arugula were unknown. Ten months of the year the tomatoes were packed in cellophane, orange, and nearly as hard as apples. Most root vegetables were perhaps too reminiscent of our ancestors' presumed reliance on turnips; all I know is we didn't eat them. (Now I adore them.)

Really, it wasn't all that bad; we had fewer choices - not necessarily a negative - and we knew much less. But although olive oil was sold in four-ounce bottles (I swear!), the hegemony of Big Food was in its infancy; the first time I saw a McDonald's was in 1967, and that was in Pennsylvania - there were none in New York City - and there were no microwaveable "meals." TV dinners were a monthly treat.

Our options now are infinite, but they're healthy only if we steer clear of the processed food aisles. (And you can buy canned fruit salad with no sugar!) Most cooks understand that making a vinaigrette is the work of a moment. Broiling a piece of fish or meat, steaming a vegetable, making a sauce for pasta - these are simple tasks.

Sure, I make adjustments. My pasta sometimes becomes rice (or rarely, if I'm to be honest, a more exotic grain like quinoa or farro) and the fish may be seasoned in a Japanese style: I might lightly salt-cure it, or simmer it in a mixture of soy and mirin and ginger. In this case the salad dressing might get a touch of sesame oil in it, or even a little soy and ginger. My personal preferences don't matter much; I just have a comfort zone that's mine, and it's neither brilliant nor unusual.

I once asked the food scholar and writer Alan Davidson what he ate on lazy nights, and he said, "A tuna sandwich and a glass of milk." I have friends who seem to live on homemade pizza, others who top salad with a piece of chicken, those who frequently "dine" on (fresh-popped) popcorn and a big salad with herbs, oil, lemon and salt. Some make stews on Sunday and eat them three times during the week. These are all modest but real options, especially when compared to fast food, takeout, and the like.

Everyone can find a cooking comfort zone. An updated version of the one established by my mother, circa 1954, is just fine, especially if you do without the sugary fruit salad and find a real vegetable to plug in for the peas. Meat and potatoes may not be the ideal dinner from a health or environmental perspective - but there's a big difference between cooking a broiled chop and mashed potatoes, and burgers and fries from a fast-food place. Finding a comfort zone in cooking - any comfort zone - is better than not cooking at all. □



It's the Loyalty, Stupid



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - I talked to Robin Williams once, about breasts. In 1993, when he played a prim British nanny in "Mrs. Doubtfire," I went to interview him at his Pacific Heights house.

"It's great to be this blue-mouthed old lady hitting on somebody," he said, in his character's soft Scottish burr, "opening your blouse and saying, 'What about these? Behold my dirty pillows, my fun bags. Come nurse at the fountain of bliss.'" He was 42 then, wearing his Pop-eye outfit, a blue-striped T-shirt and black baggy jeans. Surrounded by kids, a rabbit and an iguana, we talked about everything from John Belushi to his father, a stern Ford Motor Co. executive.

As our interview ended, I was telling him about my friend Michael Kelly's idea for a 1-900 number, not one to call Asian beauties or Swedish babes, but where you'd have an amorous chat with a repressed Irish woman. Williams delightedly riffed on the caricature, playing the role of an older Irish woman answering the sex line in a brusque brogue, ordering a horny caller to go to the devil with his impure thoughts. I couldn't wait to play the tape for Kelly, who doubled over in laughter.

So when I think of Williams, I think of Kelly. And when I think of Kelly, I think of Hillary Clinton, because Michael was the first American reporter to die in the Iraq inva-

sion, and Hillary was one of the 29 Democratic senators who voted to authorize that baloney war.

The woman who always does her homework, the woman who resigned as president of Wellesley College's Young Republicans over the Vietnam War, made that vote without even bothering to read the National Intelligence Estimate and its skimpy evidence. It was obvious in real time that the Bush crew was arbitrarily switching countries, blaming 9/11 on Saddam so they'd get more vivid vengeance targets and a chance to shake up the Middle East chessboard, and that officials were shamelessly making up the threat as they went along.

For me to believe that Hillary would be a good president, I would need to feel that she had learned something from that deadly, globe-shattering vote - a calculated attempt to be tough and show that, as a Democratic woman, she was not afraid to use power.

Yet, she's still at it.

With the diplomatic finesse of a wrecking ball, the former diplomat gave an interview to Jeffrey Goldberg, a hawk, of The Atlantic - a calculated attempt to be tough and show that, as a Democratic woman, she's not afraid to use power.

Channeling her pal John McCain, she took a cheap shot at President Obama when his approval rating on foreign policy had dropped to 36 percent, calling him a wimp just as he was preparing for airstrikes against the Islamic State militant group.

As one Democrat noted, citing the callous Clintonian principle that unpopular things make foolish investments: "If Obama was at 63 instead of 36, she'd be happy to be Robin to his Batman."

It's not that she's too old, despite nasty cracks on conservative websites like the Washington Free Beacon. It's that she's too old-think, thrusting herself forward as a hawk at a time when hawks - in the season of Elizabeth Warren and Rand Paul - aren't so cool.

Americans are sick of the idea that we should plunge in and plant our flag in the ground and work out the details later. It's a complicated world, where you cross the border from Syria to Iraq and your allies are the enemy.

Hillary booed the president and said that, as secretary of state, she had wanted to do more to help the Syrian rebels. She said that Obama's "failure" in Syria led to the rise of the Islamic State and sniped about Obama's slogan: "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

Saying you can't live by slogans is rich, coming from someone whose husband's presidency was built on "It's the economy, stupid."

Besides, a Times article by Tim Arango and Eric Schmitt demonstrated that "at every turn" the rise of the Islamic State's self-styled caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, had been shaped by the United States' involvement in Iraq, putting the ball of blame back in Hillary's court.

The neocon Weekly Standard gleefully printed her remarks with her byline under the headline: "Special Guest Editorial: Obama's Foreign Policy Failures." And Vice used the headline: "Hillary Clinton's Foreign Policy Is Already Terrifying."

David Axelrod tartly tweeted: "Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision."

Hillary may know that she seemed unseemly. She called Obama to assert that she wasn't attacking him, trying to avoid an awkward encounter when they both attend a Vernon Jordan party Wednesday night at the Martha's Vineyard golf course where the president has been relaxing while the world explodes.

After buoying Hillary, Obama is learning the truth of another unofficial slogan in politics: "The Clintons will be there when they need you." □

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